

FINAL

BRONCO BILLY

by

Dennis E. Hackin

August 31, 1979

FADE IN:

1. EXT. BRONCO BILLY'S WILD WEST SHOW TENT - DAY

From an elevated distance we see the dilapidated tent of "Bronco Billy's Wild West Show" establishing the main tent, showing many seasons of weathering, patching, and general wear and tear, the living quarter tents, the canvas one-sheets advertising the acts to be seen within, and a figure or two, as yet unidentified, moving about. From the same vantage point we progressively move in during a series of TITLE SHOTS, as the light progressively dims to evening, a small crowd of men, women and children gather for the nights show and, finally, an old panel truck arrives, driven by BRONCO BILLY himself, and bearing his faded likeness and brand painted upon the side. As we begin to hear scattered applause, whistling and cheering:

CUT TO:

2. INT. BRONCO BILLY'S WILD WEST SHOW TENT - EVENING

DOC LYNCH, a white haired man in his sixties with an enormous white handlebar moustache is seen in the center of the small arena snapping his large black bull-whip. He is the ring master of the show. DOC LYNCH is dressed as a gambling dandy-with a long black suit coat and trousers, white silk shirt and a small tilted derringer, holstered where all the CROWD can see it. The DOC is on the pudgy side but is a most congenial man and all the crowds like him. The tent has a crowd of about thirty people. There are many empty seats.

DOC

Ladies and Gents-lemen,  
boys and gals. We welcome  
you this evening to the  
Greatest, the Most authentic  
Wild West Show in America...  
So hang onto your hats and  
boots...or your loved one's  
hand...

He winks at a young teen-age boy and girl who are in love and holding hands in the front row.

...and let us take you back to  
a time when the Cowboys & Indians  
roamed our great land. For our  
first act, Chief Big Eagle the  
great, great grandson of the great  
Apache Chief Geronimo will perform  
the legendary Rattlesnake Dance that  
no white man has ever seen before.

(Con't.)

LORRAINE RUNNING WATER is seen walking out to the edge of the arena beating a tom tom drum with her hands. She sits down and continues beating the tom toms. CHIEF BIG EAGLE enters the tent from the PERFORMERS ENTRANCE-EXIT. He is a man in his late thirties, powerfully built, long shoulder length black hair, wearing only a small breech cloth of buckskin. His body and face are painted with colorful Indian symbols. He reaches the center of the arena and does a circular dance and then goes over to a wicker basket and takes out a three foot rattlesnake. He holds it extended in both hands and shows the audience then places it-tail first in his mouth.

CUT TO:

### 3. INT. BRONCO BILLY'S TRAILER-EVENING

BRONCO BILLY McCOY is seen putting on an embroidered western shirt-it is black and white with fringe on the sleeves and back and has rearing horses on the cuffs and pistols and a rope lasso coiled on the breast pockets. He is a leather skinned man in his forties. As he slowly buttons up his shirt he stands in front of a mirror. Seated on the couch in the small trailer is a young girl in her late teens. Her name is MITZI FRITTS. She is wearing a cowgirl costume which consist of a blouse and a mini skirt with cowgirl boots. She has scraggly red hair and is extremely nervous.

MITZI

I'm awful scared Bronco  
Billy...

BILLY

Everybodys a little nervous  
their first night in show  
biz'ness. Just do what we  
rehearsed and everything will  
be okay.

MITZI thinks a moment about what BRONCO BILLY has just said.

MITZI

I'm awful scared Bronco  
Billy.

BILLY gives her a sharp look. He takes his stetson cowboy hat off the wall hook, underneath are his two pearl handled short nosed Colt 45 revolvers in black leather holsters. He takes a bottle of whiskey off the dressing table and throws it over to her.

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

BILLY  
Have a drink!

She uncorks the bottle and takes a big swig. The trailer door opens quickly and TWO GUN LEFTY LeBOW, a short-stocky cowboy with one hand enters. He is a man in his forties and very serious.

LEFTY  
Big Eagle got bit again  
by the rattlesnake...

BILLY  
Damit!

LEFTY  
Running Water took him  
back to their truck and  
gave him a bottle of Doc's  
snake bite.

BILLY  
Why can't he just do the  
great Apache flaming arrow  
act?

LEFTY  
I thought you told him to  
use the gopher snake ?

BILLY  
He's a proud Indian.

BILLY straps on his Bowie knife behind his back and picks up his six-shooters off the hook.

LEFTY  
The only good Indian is  
a dead Indian.

BILLY  
Lets go girl!

MITZI takes one last swig of whiskey.

CUT TO:



4. INT. BRONCO BILLY'S WILD WEST SHOW TENT-EVENING

In the center of the arena is LEONARD JAMES, a young cowboy in his late twenties. He is a lasso artist. LEONARD is seen jumping through a giant loop he has made with his rope. He jumps back and forth-back and forth. DOC LYNCH is seen standing on the side of the PERFORMERS ENTRANCE-EXIT to the arena. He looks outside and can see BRONCO BILLY, MITZI and BUSTER the golden palomino horse coming toward the big tent. DOC LYNCH runs out into the center of the arena just as LEONARD JAMES is finishing up his act.

DOC

A big hand for Lasso  
Leonard James. The greatest  
rope artist in the west.

LEONARD takes off his big cowboy hat and does a dramatic bow to the audience. He lets out a big cowboy yell and runs out of the arena toward the PERFORMERS ENTRANCE-EXIT.

DOC

...and now folks it is  
my privilege to introduce  
to you the Greatest trick  
shooter, the fastest draw,  
the toughest hombre who ever  
rode the range, the one, the  
only, Bronco Billy McCoy...

BRONCO BILLY comes riding out on his golden palomino horse. As soon as he reaches the center of the arena he reins "BUSTER" back and has him rear up on his hind legs. BILLY takes off his stetson hat with a swooping motion and waves it over his head. He starts to ride around the arena circle doing different stunts. He jumps off and then gets back up onto BUSTER pony express style. He does a back flip off the horse and then gets back up by pulling on the tail and leaping up. Riding twice around the arena BRONCO BILLY jumps off BUSTER and makes the horse kneel and lay down on his side. The audience applauds as loud as thirty people can applaud.

BILLY

Thank ya folks, thank ya  
and especially my little  
pardnors out in the audience.  
Its always good to be back in  
Great Falls, Montana and see  
all my friends. At this time I'd  
like to introduce to you my new  
assistant..its her first night in  
the big tent so I want you all to  
give her a big hand..Miss Mitzi Fritts..

(Con't.)

DOC LYNCH and TWO GUN LEFTY LeBOW are seen pushing MITZI out of the PERFORMERS ENTRANCE-EXIT and toward BILLY. She hesitates, overcomes her stage fright, and runs over to BRONCO BILLY who whispers to her.

BILLY  
Get the plates!

BRONCO BILLY swings back up onto BUSTER. He shouts out.

On with the show!

He rides around the arena once. MITZI takes two clay plates off a small wooden table in the center of the arena and holds them in her hands. BILLY rides by and leans around under BUSTER'S neck and shoots the plates out of MITZI'S hands. She takes two more plates off the table and as BRONCO BILLY rides around the arena she throws one plate up in the air away from him. He shoots at it but misses and it falls to the ground and breaks. BILLY shouts out to MITZI.

BILLY  
Throw up another plate!

MITZI throws up another plate but BILLY'S making another turn and doesn't see it in time. MITZI quickly grabs another one off the table and waits for BILLY to get in position. She throws it up in the air just as he begins to pass by-he turns around in the saddle and swings his gun hand behind his back and shoots it apart in mid-air.

DOC LYNCH runs out to the center of the arena and BILLY rides BUSTER out of the tent through the PERFORMERS ENTRANCE-EXIT. DOC speaks out to the crowd. In the background TWO GUN LEFTY LeBOW is seen pushing out "THE WHEEL OF FORTUNE" and he begins to strap MITZI onto it.

DOC  
...AND NOW...all you settlers  
just sit tight because Bronco  
Billy is going to do his death  
defying "Wheel of Fortune" shoot  
out.

BILLY runs out to the center of the arena. DOC backs away toward the PERFORMERS ENTRANCE-EXIT to give him center stage.

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

BILLY  
Thank ya Doc, Thank ya...

BILLY pulls out his revolvers, spins them around, twirls them up in the air and catches them behind his back. MITZI is strapped to the "Wheel of Fortune", candles are lit on four corners and a balloon is in between her legs. BILLY walks over to MITZI who whispers to him.

MITZI  
...are those real bullets ?

BILLY  
Don't worry I never miss!

BILLY turns to the audience and speaks out.

Miss Mitzi would you like  
a blind fold ?

MITZI  
(Nervously)  
No Bronco Billy! You are the  
best shot in the old west.

BILLY  
Very well Miss Mitzi! But, I  
will use one.

BILLY walks ten paces away from the "Wheel of Fortune", turns and faces MITZI. He takes his bandanna from around his neck and ties it around his eyes.

Are you ready Miss Mitzi ?

MITZI  
(Nervously)  
Yes, Bronco Billy!

BILLY  
Spin the Wheel of Fortune!

TWO GUN LEFTY LeBOW spins the Wheel and stands back. MITZI lets out a small murmur. BILLY shoots out the four candles then he holsters his six-shooters and takes out his Bowie knife. A quick shot of MITZI'S expression of terror at her quick glance at the knife. BILLY throws the knife at the same time MITZI lets out a shriek and breaks the strap of her right leg and tries to get off the spinning wheel. Unfortunately the Bowie knife sticks inside her leg. An elderly woman in the audience stands and faints. BILLY takes off his bandanna and looks at MITZI with an expression of angry-bewildered helplessness.

CUT TO.

## 5. EXT. HIGHWAY 83 - DAY

The next morning. BRONCO BILLY'S WILD WEST SHOW truck caravan is seen leaving the town of Great Falls, Montana. The caravan consists of the lead truck (an old panel, pulling a single horse trailer) driven by Bronco Billy and Doc Lynch...followed by (a 5 ton truck pulling a U-Haul trailer) driven by Lasso Leonard James and Two Gun Lefty LeBow...followed by (a 1 ton truck with wooden sides and a canvas top-pulling a 1957 Pontiac Bonneville convertible that has a set of bull horns on the hood, pistols for door handles, fake cowhide upholstered seats, painted-metal flake candy apple red) driven by Chief Big Eagle and his wife, Lorraine Running Water. The panel truck and the 5 ton bear the faded likeness of Bronco Billy on his horse, BUSTER and the Bronco Billy brand. Rain is threatening.

## 6. INT. BRONCO BILLY'S TRUCK - DAY

It is raining outside and only the window wiper on the driver's side works. BILLY is driving the truck, smoking a cigarette his stetson hat tilted back. Seated opposite him is DOC LYNCH, who is sipping from a bottle of his famous Doc Lynch Snake Bite Cure. Doc is smoking a long bourbon soaked Kentucky cigar.

DOC

How much we have in the kitty?

BILLY

Nineteen bucks and some loose change.

DOC

Nobody can ever say we're gettin' rich.

BILLY

Just as long as we make it to the next town I'll be happy.

DOC

Yeah! Well, ah...

BILLY

Ya got somethin stuck in your craw, Doc? Spit it out!

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

DOC

Yeah! Well, ah...Now you know me and the boys we've been down the road with you through hell and high water. If there's a fight we stick together and we know you've done the same for us...

BILLY

Look, if its about that little gal...well, hell Doc, you know how hard it is to find a good assistant...but you can tell the boys the next time I'll find me an angel who'll make us all proud to have in the show.

DOC

Heck, they understand about that. But...

BILLY

What the hell ya talkin about ?

DOC

Now you know the boys love ya and so do I...but unless we get paid we're gonna all have to quit. Its been six months...

BILLY pounds the horn on the steering wheel in anger. DOC flinches away from Billy expecting to get punched.

CUT TO:

7. EXT. HIGHWAY 83- DAY

BILLY'S truck is seen pulling over to the side of the road followed by the rest of the caravan. He gets out of the truck and slams the door hard and starts to walk toward the second truck driven by LASSO LEONARD JAMES and TWO GUN LEFTY LeBOW. He approaches the driver's side and yanks open the door where LEONARD is seated behind the wheel.

LEONARD

Whats goin on ?

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

BILLY

Get outta my truck you  
God Dam yellow belly side-  
winders....

LEONARD

Its raining!

BILLY

Get out!

BILLY walks toward the last truck where BIG EAGLE and RUNNING WATER are. DOC LYNCH is seen approaching LEONARD and LEFTY who are standing on the road side. Several cars pass by.

LEFTY

What in tarnation is he  
all heated up about ?

DOC

I told him we were all  
quittin unless we got  
paid.

LEONARD

Why did ya have to tell  
him when it was raining  
out !

DOC

I thought it was the best  
time before we got to the  
next town.

LEFTY

We never should've elected  
you to tell him.

DOC

We drew straws and I lost.  
Remember ?

BILLY is seen yanking open the 1 ton truck door. RUNNING WATER is behind the wheel, BIG EAGLE is seated next to her with his arm around her shoulder, he has a bandage over his lower lip from the rattlesnake bite.

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

BILLY

We're gonna have a pow wow  
right now...so get out of  
my truck you ingrates.

BIG EAGLE

Don't you swear at my wife,  
Boss! I won't take it....

BILLY looks at BIG EAGLE with fire in his eyes.

BILLY

Get out of my truck!

BILLY turns and walks back toward the second truck where the other men are standing. BIG EAGLE and RUNNING WATER can be seen getting out of their truck and following him. BILLY paces back and forth in front of the men-waiting for Big Eagle and Running Water to join the group before he speaks. ALL are standing together in the rain with BILLY in front of them.

BILLY

Money! Is that what ya all want ?  
Well, I won't have a pack of wolves  
bitin at my boots for Money. Ya think  
when I look out into those audiences  
and see those little pardnors smiling  
eyes that I'm thinkin about Money ?

BILLY'S words are starting to penetrate the Outfits rain soaked hearts.

All, the good times and theres been  
plenty of them and the bad times...  
well, it breaks my heart to think the  
only reason ya ever came down the trail  
with me in the first place was for Money.  
I thought I had the best bunch...but it  
looks like I was dealt a crooked hand.

LEFTY

Boss! It ain't what your thinkin. We  
don't really want to quit the outfit..  
its just, well, hell I ain't had enough  
money to go into a bar and buy a pretty  
gal a drink in over a month.

BILLY

Ya think I have ?

LEFTY thinks about it for a moment.

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

LEFTY

...and you promised me I'd have enough money this year to buy me a wooden hand.

BILLY

Ya never shoulda blow'd off your hand in the first place. I told ya that shotgun act wouldn't work.

BIG EAGLE

Running Water and I want to buy a new bed. We're sick and tired of sleeping on straw...

BILLY

You both would be sittin out on the reservation today drinkin bad whiskey if it weren't for me.

RUNNING WATER

I'm sick of being on the wagon, I'm sick of drinking water all the time...

BILLY

We all know what you used to do to get a drink and we all forgave you for it...but, if you want to go back to wool Army blankets and dirty sheets I won't stop ya...

LEONARD

I need new lariats!

BILLY

You young cowpunchers today don't know how to take care of your gear. If I told ya once, I told ya a hundred times to wrap your ropes up after every show.

LEONARD

I know my job!

BILLY

Know it better! If ya know what I mean.

(CONTINUED)



(Con't.)

DOC

Why don't we all get back  
into the trucks and get on  
down the trail and get somethin  
to eat.

BILLY

That ain't good enough Doc!  
I say we get it over with here.

LEFTY

Nobody wants it over!

BILLY gives them all a quick individual glance.

BILLY

What about the rest of ya ?

BIG EAGLE

Your right boss! Running Water  
and I owe ya our lives.

LEONARD

Where the heck would I go! Its  
just the first money we get I  
want some new ropes.

BILLY'S attitude becomes that of the benevolent friend.

BILLY

You'll all get what your  
lookin for. I promise ya!  
Every extra nickel and dime  
I get goes into that little  
metal strongbox. One of these  
days I'll have that ranch for  
city kids to come and visit and  
find out about real cowboys and  
Indians. Then we'll all be able  
to settle down. Your the best  
bunch of wranglers in America  
and don't ya ever forget it...  
You ride for Bronco Billy, the  
fastest draw in the West. Now  
lets hit the trail.....

They all let out big hoots and hollers and slap each other on  
the back. Everybody is drenched.

CUT TO:

## 8. EXT. MAINSTREET - PAYETTE, IDAHO - DAY

BRONCO BILLY'S WILD WEST SHOW caravan is seen traveling down the town's mainstreet. Small children and mothers watch as the trucks pass by and head for the Courthouse Bldg. at the end of the street.

CUT TO:

## 9. EXT. COURTHOUSE BLDG-DAY

The truck caravan is seen pulling up in front of the Courthouse Building. BILLY jumps out of the truck before it comes to a complete stop. DOC LYNCH is behind the wheel. In front of his truck is seen a Big Black Cadillac Limousine with a uniformed chauffeur seated behind the wheel. BILLY speaks out to DOC.

BILLY

I'll get the permit and be right back. Tell Leonard to go over to that cafe and get everybody some hamburgers and coffee.

BILLY takes a five dollar bill out of his pocket and hands it to DOC. He walks alongside the Limousine, around the front, onto the sidewalk and up the steep courthouse steps.

CUT TO:

## 10. INT. COURTHOUSE BLDG-DAY

BILLY is seen walking down the Courthouse corridor and entering the Permit Office.

CUT TO:

## 11. INT. PERMIT OFFICE-DAY

BILLY enters the Permit Office. Several people are waiting in line to get different permits. A farmer with his young son is standing in front of BILLY and in front of him are a well dressed man and woman. BILLY sizes up the woman from the rear. She is expensively dressed in contrast to everyone else in the room. She has expensive diamond bracelets on her wrists and long diamond earrings. The County Clerk, a heavy set woman in her forties, approaches the long counter and hands the man a permit. The Clerk's name is MURIEL MOODY.

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

MURIEL

Mr. Arlington, if you will both sign here and pay me ten dollars then you will be able to go upstairs to Judge Carbons office and be married.

JOHN ARLINGTON signs the permit and hands ANTOINETTE LILY the fountain pen.

JOHN

Darling!

She signs the permit. He takes out his billfold and exposes a large amount of money. Just as ANTOINETTE is turning to leave the room, BILLY starts to take out a pack of cigarettes from his breast pocket, they accidentally fall to the floor and when he leans over to pick them up...ANTOINETTE LILY walks by him. They never actually see each other's face. BILLY checks her legs over turns and watches her walk out the door. He stands up in time to look straight at JOHN ARLINGTON, a man in his mid-forties, wealthy appearing, in Bronco Billy's mind, "A Real Dude".

CUT TO:

12. INT. COURTHOUSE CORRIDOR-DAY

ANTOINETTE is seen walking ahead of JOHN ARLINGTON. She is a woman in her thirties, very attractive, well bred, educated, a "society snob". ARLINGTON is a social butterfly with very little money. He has been married twice to society women with money, it is his occupation. He starts to walk faster to catch up with ANTOINETTE but she walks faster keeping him two steps behind her.

JOHN

Darling! Don't walk so fast.

ANTOINETTE

I shall walk as fast as I please!

She reaches the stairway and runs up the steps to the second floor. JOHN ARLINGTON tries to catch her but runs out of breath half way up the stairs.

CUT TO:

## 13. EXT. JUDGE CARBONS OFFICE - DAY

ANTOINETTE LILY is SEEN standing outside Judge Carbons office looking through her purse for a cigarette case. She takes it out and places a non-filter cigarette between her red lips. JOHN ARLINGTON slowly walks towards her out of breath.

ANTOINETTE  
Light me !

He fumbles through his pockets for his lighter.

JOHN  
My darling Antoinette!  
I want you to know how  
much I love you...

Antoinette sticks her hand in his suitcoat pocket and takes out his gold cigarette lighter and lights her own smoke.

ANTOINETTE  
My dear John, let us not  
become too maudlin on the  
day of our marriage.

JOHN  
But I do love you my...

ANTOINETTE  
( interrupts him )  
We both need each other! You  
know perfectly well that if I  
do not marry someone, anyone,  
by the time I reach the frightful  
age of thirty, which is but six  
days from now I shall lose many,  
many wonderful millions of dollars,  
my dear departed daddy left me in  
his will. So let us not talk about  
love. I know you are as broke as  
these goddamn Idaho farmers. Come,  
let us get this ordeal over with and  
make it as painless as possible.

She drops her cigarette and enters the Judge's office.  
John Arlington straightens his tie and follows.

CUT TO:

## 14. EXT. ROADSIDE FIELD - DAY

BRONCO BILLY'S WILD WEST SHOW caravan is parked in a field off the road on the edge of town. Across the road is a gas station-motel. Billy and the rest of the outfit are unloading the trucks. John Arlington's limousine is SEEN pulling into the gas station, the radiator steaming.

CUT TO:

## 15. EXT. ROADSIDE GAS STATION - DAY

An old man attendant walks up to the driver's side and the CHAUFFEUR rolls down the window and speaks.

CHAUFFEUR

Might there be an auto mechanic on duty?

OLD MAN

What's the problem?

CHAUFFEUR

I believe the engine is burning up!

OLD MAN

Pull her in over there.

The CHAUFFEUR pulls the limousine up to the front of the garage opening and stops the car. ANTOINETTE gets out of the backseat followed by JOHN ARLINGTON. They walk around to the front of the car and watch the OLD MAN lift up the hood and look inside at the engine which is smoking heavily.

ANTOINETTE

How long is this going to take?

OLD MAN

Your radiator has a hole in it the size of a potato.

ANTOINETTE

Can you fix it?

OLD MAN

Yup! But it won't be ready til tomorrow monring.

ANTOINETTE

Tomorrow!

OLD MAN

Yup! I gotta go over to Topeka and pick up a new radiator.

ANTOINETTE

I will give you twice what you normally charge if you have it repaired by tonight.

(CONTINUED)

OLD MAN  
I could use the extra money.  
But your car won't be ready  
till tomorrow.

ANTOINETTE looks harshly at JOHN ARLINGTON.

ANTOINETTE  
You and your rented limousine!  
Why in the hell did we get married  
in Idaho?

She walks away from the car. JOHN ARLINGTON shouts out after him.

JOHN  
I thought it would be a good  
idea to go to Sun Valley for  
the honeymoon.

The OLD MAN speaks to JOHN.

OLD MAN  
You want her fixed?

JOHN  
Sometimes I just want to  
kill her.

CUT TO:

16. EXT. BRONCO BILLY'S ROADSIDE SHOW--DAY

A group of five young boys between the ages of 7 & 11 are SEEN riding up on their bicycles, getting off and walking up to the trucks, looking at Bronco Billy's bunch setting up the big tent. BILLY walks up behind the boys. He has on his two six shooters.

BILLY  
Stick 'em up or I'll plug ya!

The boys are surprised. They raise their hands over their heads.

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

BILLY

Why I oughta have the bunch  
of ya strung up for cattle  
rustlin.

The boys backs are facing BILLY.

1st BOY

We just wanted to talk to  
Bronco Billy.

BILLY

Turn around slow and easy!

The BOYS turn around slow and easy with their hands  
above their heads.

You mean to tell me you little  
pards are playing hookey from  
school just to come and talk to  
me ?

2nd BOY

Wow! Look at his guns.

3rd BOY

Its Bronco Billy!

BILLY

You can put your hands down.

4th BOY

Are you really the fastest  
gun in the West ?

BILLY

Ain't nobody faster than  
Bronco Billy.

BILLY quick draws his two six shooters and twirls them  
around several times before holstering them. The BOYS are  
impressed.

BOYS

Wow!

BILLY

Now, I don't take kindly to  
youngins playin hookey. I believe  
every kid in America should go to  
school til the eighth grade, after  
that if a boy wants to get a job on  
a ranch punching cows for thirty dollars  
a month, room and board included, well,  
I'm all for it.

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

1st BOY  
We don't go to school today  
Bronco Billy..its Saturday!

For a moment BILLY is flustered but he recovers quickly.

BILLY  
Been ridin all night. A man  
forgets what day it is when  
he's out on the range.....

BILLY takes a handful of tickets out of his pocket.

Because I know you're all good  
hearted little cowboys and say  
your prayers before you go to  
bed, I'm gonna give you one free  
ticket each, to the greatest  
Wild West Show in the world. And  
don't forget to bring your folks  
tonight.

The BOYS take the tickets.

2nd BOY  
Thanks Bronco Billy!

The other BOYS thank BILLY and start to run happily back to  
their bikes. BILLY yells out.

BILLY  
Get here early or else you  
won't be able to get a seat.

He walks over to the 1957 Pontiac Bonneville convertible and  
gets in. He lowers the top. In the background LEONARD & LEFTY  
LeBOW are tying down the remaining ropes on the big tent. BIG  
EAGLE & RUNNING WATER are setting up the box office booth. DOC  
LYNCH is carrying a box full of props. He speaks out to BILLY.

DOC  
Billy! Where ya headin ?

BILLY  
Gotta find me a woman who  
can shoot like Annie Oakley,  
ride like Belle Starr and ain't  
afraid of nothin in Hell.

He backs the Pontiac up quickly, lays rubber and drives onto  
the road.

CUT TO:



## 17. EXT. DRIVE-IN HAMBURGER STAND-AFTERNOON

BILLY is seen driving around the Hamburger Stand checking out the car hops, most are high school girls. The place is fairly filled with young farm boys and teen-age girls in their trucks and cars. BILLY pulls into an empty spot...all eyes are on his car. A plump girl named DOLORES DUKE comes up to his car to take his order. She hands him a menu and sets up the door tray. DOLORES is seventeen years old, dish water blond hair and rather buxom.

DOLORES  
Are you Bronco Billy ?

BILLY  
Sure enough 'em mam!

He tips his hat.

DOLORES  
You sure got a neat car!

BILLY  
Woman! Whats your name ?

DOLORES  
Dolores, Dolores Duke!

BILLY  
Glad to make your acquaintance  
Miss Dolores. Wanta go for a  
ride when you get off work ?

She blushes, not many men even look her way, let alone ask her for a ride.

CUT TO:

## 18. INT. BRONCO BILLY'S WILD WEST SHOW TENT-NIGHT

BRONCO BILLY is seen riding around the arena on BUSTER. DOLORES DUKE, the young car hop, is dressed up in the little cowgirl outfit; blouse, mini-skirt and boots. The costume comes in one size and unfortunately for DOLORES, several buttons on the blouse have popped off due to her large bosoms. She holds up plates in her hand and BILLY shoots them apart. He rides around the arena for a second time and DOLORES waits for him to lift her up onto the back of BUSTER. She extends her hand out and BILLY pulls her up but she swings completely over BUSTER'S rump and onto the floor. BILLY turns around and looks first at DOLORES and then at DOC LYNCH who gives him an expression of disbelief. In the sparse audience is JOHN ARLINGTON.

CUT TO:

## 19. INT. ROADSIDE MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

ANTOINETTE LILY is seated on a chair in a spartan motel room, watching television. JOHN ARLINGTON enters quietly and tip toes up behind her. She is wearing an expensive oriental sleeping robe and has her hair wrapped in a towel. She turns to look at him and he jumps back in fright. ANTOINETTE has a mud pack on her face and is wearing sunglasses.

JOHN

Jesus!

ANTOINETTE

I'm glad someone is enjoying  
our honeymoon !

He regains his composure, undoes his tie and starts to unbutton his shirt. He kiss her on the neck.

JOHN

You should have come to the  
Wild West Show, it was wonder-  
fully corny. You would have  
gotten a big laugh out of it.

ANTOINETTE

Turn the light out! I want  
to go to bed.

JOHN

Certainly dear! But aren't you  
going to wash off your face ?

ANTOINETTE

I shall wash my face when I  
want to wash my face.

JOHN is already annoyed with her almost to the breaking point. He turns off the light. The only illumination is that of the moonlight coming through the venetian blinds. ANTOINETTE crawls into bed. JOHN quickly disrobes and slides in next to her. There is a moment of silence and then...

ANTOINETTE

Will you take your wet tongue  
out of my ear.

Silence, then ANTOINETTE lets out a yell and a slap across JOHN ARLINGTON'S face.

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

JOHN

I am your husband !

ANTOINETTE

That doesn't give you the  
right to maul me.

JOHN

( angered )

Why you frigid old spinster,  
if you had any blood in your  
veins you'd know what to do.  
No wonder you've never been  
married before.

ANTOINETTE turns on the bed lamp. Her expression is one  
of cold contempt for him.

ANTOINETTE

Are you finished with your  
little speech ?

JOHN

( intimidated )

Darling, I want to make you  
happy but you, you frustrate  
me to no end.

ANTOINETTE

Finished ?

JOHN

( timid )

Yes...

ANTOINETTE

If you ever lay a hand on me  
again without first asking for  
my approval I will cut you out  
of my Universe starting at the  
bank.

JOHN

Yes, dear...

She turns off the light. There is a pause.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN  
Darling! May I put my  
hand on your breast?

ANTOINETTE  
(pause)

No!

19A EXT. BONNEVILLE - MORNING

Bronco Billy and Lefty are SEEN pulling up to the curb. Billy jumps out of the car.

BRONCO BILLY  
Wait here...I'm gonna cash  
a three dollar check.

LEFTY  
Watch yourself!

19B EXT. BANK - MORNING

Billy walks across the main street of town heading towards the bank. He tips his hat at two elderly ladies who blush and move along, their day has been made.

19C INT. BANK - MORNING

Billy is next in line to have his check cashed. A pretty young teller finishes counting out a farmer's money and then Billy steps forward. He takes out his check, smiles, tips his hat.

BRONCO BILLY  
Two singles and four quarters!  
(beat)  
Make that five dimes and two  
quarters...

The TELLER looks into Billy's eyes as if saying..."Are you feeling well today."

TELLER  
What's it gonna be, fella?

19D ANGLE - TWO BANK ROBBERS

Two rough looking characters barge in through the front door, flashing weapons. FIRST ROBBER, tall and husky, is carrying a double barrel sawed off shotgun and his partner, SECOND ROBBER, has a .38 automatic.

FIRST ROBBER  
Stick 'em up...

SECOND ROBBER  
This is a bank robbery...

FIRST ROBBER  
Everybody stand back and  
keep your hands to the sky.

19E ANGLE - BILLY AND ROBBERS

SECOND ROBBER  
That goes for you, Tex!

Bronco Billy shoots a cold look at the two rough characters.  
Billy raises his hands slowly.

19F ANGLE - ROBBERS PUSH SMALL BOY

A small boy is standing in the way of the bank robbers. The first robber pushes the boy who is holding a small piggy bank. The bank smashes into a hundred pieces and the boy's mother kneels down, tears streaming out of her eyes.

MOTHER  
Oh my God. Don't hurt my  
baby...

19G ANGLE - BRONCO BILLY AND FIGHT

Billy goes into action. He pulls out his revolver, fast as lightning faster than fast, from inside his coat. He gets off two quick shots, disarming the first ROBBER from his shotgun. He wings the Rob in the hands and twirls around blasting three more shots into the 2nd Robber, his .38 revolver flips into the air and Billy gets off two more shots, keeping it spinning in the air. The two Robbers are brought to their knees, both in mild discomfort.

19H ANGLE - BRONCO BILLY

Billy is the only one standing up, smoke trailing out of the barrel of his revolver.

19I ANGLE - LITTLE BOY

The little boy with the piggy bank looks up at Bronco Billy with total admiration. He has a new hero.

CUT TO:

(CONTINUED)

20 INT. MOTEL ROOM - MORNING

ANTOINETTE can be SEEN asleep alone in bed. She wakes up and looks over to see that JOHN ARLINGTON is nowhere in sight.

ANTOINETTE

John! Please hurry. I  
want to take my bath.

She sits up still half asleep.

I do hope your rented limousine  
has been repaired.

As she adjusts her eyes to the morning light she notices all of their luggage has been taken, including her purse. She jumps out of bed quickly, goes to the washroom, looks in but he is not there. She runs to the door, opens it up and looks out towards the gas station but the limousine is gone. A MAN walks by and notices Antoinette in her robe and mud caked face. She slams the door shut and goes over to the telephone...dialing the motel manager.

ANTOINETTE

Hello! Hello! I've been  
robbed. Hello?

She slams the phone down and looks at herself in the dresser mirror, making a wry expression. She walks into the bathroom and washes off her face.

CUT TO:

20A EXT. BANK - MORNING

Bronco Billy is being interviewed by the local newsman, PHIL ARNOLD, a bowtie and a pinstripe blazer jacket. They are surrounded by a small but energetic crowd. The same people in the bank. A TV cameraman records the moment.

NEWS REPORTER

Mr. Bronco.

BRONCO BILLY

Bronco Billy's the name. Me and  
my Wild West Show are parked out  
on I -10...

NEWS REPORTER

Of course, Bronco Billy. When did  
you feel it was time to take action.

(CONTINUED)

BRONCO BILLY

It's always time to take action  
when there's danger. I want to  
invite all those little partners  
out there to my Wild West Show  
that is located out on I-10...

20B ANGLE - BANK MANAGER

A burly man with a three piece suit walks in front of the camera  
and the New Reporter shakes Billy's hand. Billy is more concerned  
with the camera and all the publicity.

NEWS REPORTER

Here's Mr. I.V. Collarton, manager  
of the bank...

BANK MANAGER

I want to shake your hand Bronco  
Billy, for saving...

BRONCO BILLY

(pushes bank manager  
aside)

Our first show starts at 7:30 so load  
up the whole family and come on out  
and see me, Bronco Billy, the fastest  
draw, the best shot, the quickest hombre  
West of the Pecos, out on I-10...

CUT TO:

21 EXT. MOTEL MANAGER'S OFFICE - MORNING

ANTOINETTE is SEEN walking briskly up to the Manager's office.  
A sign is hanging on the door. "CLYDE FORGOT HIS LUNCH BOX -  
HAVE TOTAKE IT TO HIM, WILL BE BACK BY NOON", BESS. She puts her  
hand on the doorknob and finds it to be open.

CUT TO:

## 22 INT. MOTEL MANAGER OFFICE - MORNING

ANTOINETTE enters the office, looks around, a pay telephone is on the wall but no other. She goes around the desk and peers inside the doorway of the manager's living quarters. An ironing board with an unplugged iron and a cotton dress can be seen near the doorway. She picks it up and holds it against her body to see the size, it is a bit small.

CUT TO:

## 23 EXT. GAS STATION - MORNING

ANTOINETTE walks up to the gas station office and looks inside but no one is there. She doesn't look like a rich society woman in the simple cotton dress and red slippers. She walks over to the garage and inside is the OLD MAN pumping oil into a bucket. ANTOINETTE speaks out him.

ANTOINETTE

You there!

The Old Man keeps pumping the oil into the bucket. ANTOINETTE puts both fingers in her mouth and whistles loud.

You there!

The Old Man doesn't look up when he speaks.

OLD MAN

Heard ya the first time.

ANTOINETTE

My husband, the man with the limousine, did he say when he'd be back?

OLD MAN

Nope!

ANTOINETTE

May I use your telephone?

OLD MAN

If ya got a dime!

(CONTINUED)



(Con't.)

ANTOINETTE

My husband seems to be  
playing a little joke on  
me and has taken my purse.

OLD MAN

Run off has he!

The old man walks out of the garage carrying the bucket of oil. ANTOINETTE follows him over to the gas pumps. She is steaming mad but trying to contain her anger.

ANTOINETTE

Will you loan me a dime? I  
just want to dial the operator.

OLD MAN

Nope!

ANTOINETTE

( amazed )

Why not !!

OLD MAN

Cause I ain't got a dime!

ANTOINETTE

You've got a telephone in  
there.

OLD MAN

It works on dimes!

ANTOINETTE

Won't you please take a dime  
out of your cash register and  
let me use it? I will give it  
right back to you.

BRONCO BILLY can be seen walking across the road.

OLD MAN

Ain't mine to give !

BILLY walks by the OLD MAN and winks at ANTOINETTE who turns her face away in.....disgust. He enters the gas station office and starts to put money in the coke machine. The OLD MAN walks into the station office and sits down on a swivel chair behind the desk. ANTOINETTE is left standing alone next to the pumps. Across the road BRONCO BILLY'S outfit is folding up the big tent and getting ready to leave town.

CUT TO:

## 24. INT. GAS STATION OFFICE-MORNING

A coke comes out of the machine and BILLY catches it. He has bought three and has run out of change.

BILLY

Ol' Pard! Think I could  
get some change for a dollar?

He hands the OLD MAN his dollar and the man leans forward in his swivel chair and rings up the cash register. BILLY looks out the window at ANTOINETTE LILY.

Nice lookin ain't she !

OLD MAN

At my age thats about all  
I can do is look...

BILLY

Betcha use to knock 'em  
dead....

The OLD MAN hands BILLY his change.

OLD MAN

I've gone through three  
wives and I'm working on  
my fourth.

BILLY laughs. He walks back to the coke machine and puts in his money. As he gets the cokes he keeps looking out at ANTOINETTE.

BILLY

She live around here ?

The OLD MAN takes a cigar stub out of the ash tray and lights it.

OLD MAN

Her husband run off and  
left her last night.

BILLY

A man's gotta be a fool to  
leave somethin as good lookin  
as that.

OLD MAN

Maybe! Maybe not...

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

BILLY  
Sir, have a good day.

OLD MAN  
Same to you young fella.

BILLY carries three bottles in each hand and walks out of the gas station office.

CUT TO:

25. EXT. GAS STATION-MORNING

BILLY walks up to ANTOINETTE who looks at him with disdain.

BILLY  
Mornin Mam! Can I be of  
some help to you ?

ANTOINETTE  
Would you be kind enough to  
loan me one dime ?

BILLY  
Sure enough. Come on across  
the road I got my money in  
the truck.

He starts to walk across the road. ANTOINETTE is taken back by his easy response after the strain with the OLD MAN. BILLY turns and looks at her.

You comin ?

ANTOINETTE catches up to BILLY and they both cross the road.

CUT TO:

26. EXT. BRONCO BILLY'S WILD WEST SHOW-MORNING

BILLY & ANTOINETTE walk into the encampment of the Wild West Show.

BILLY  
My name's Bronco Billy  
McCoy and yours ?

ANTOINETTE  
Bronco!  
(She laughs)  
What an amusing name.

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

BILLY gives her a wry look.

BILLY  
My friends call me Billy!

They walk up to LEONARD and LEFTY who are loading gear into the 3/4 ton truck. BIG EAGLE is hooking up the tow bar on the Pontiac to the 1 ton truck. BILLY yells out.

Come and get her!!!

EVERYBODY stops what they are doing and walk over to BILLY to get their cokes. ANTOINETTE is impatient.

ANTOINETTE  
May I have the dime you  
promised me ?

BILLY hands LEFTY & LEONARD their cokes.

LEFTY  
I wanted an orange soda !

LEONARD  
I wanted a strawberry !

BILLY ignores their griping.

BILLY  
Boys, I'd like you to  
meet....

ANTOINETTE  
Antoinette Lily.

BILLY  
Miss Antoinette Lily !

DOC LYNCH sticks his head out the trailer door and RUNNING WATER jumps off the back of the 1 ton truck.

LEONARD  
Your the purttest assistant  
the boss ever hired.

LEFTY  
Hope you know how to ride  
better than the last gal.

LEFTY gives BILLY a hard stare.

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

ANTOINETTE  
Wait one minute!

BIG EAGLE & RUNNING WATER walk up beside BILLY who hands them their cokes.

BILLY  
Miss Lily I'd like you to meet  
Chief Big Eagle and his wife Lorraine  
Running Water.

ANTOINETTE  
(Sarcastic)  
What an honor !

BIG EAGLE  
Miss Lily!

RUNNING WATER  
Mam!

BILLY  
Okay boys lets get back  
to work. We gotta get rollin .

LEONARD  
Glad to have ya along .

LEONARD tips his hat and walks away with the rest of the outfit.  
DOC LYNCH walks up to BILLY who hands him a coke.

ANTOINETTE  
The dime!

DOC  
I wanted a Dr. Pepper!

BILLY  
Doc Lynch! Miss Antoinette Lily.

DOC  
Mam! Welcome to Bronco Billy's  
Wild West Show. I hope you will  
be very happy with us.

BILLY  
Quit chewing the fat and get  
back to work.

DOC  
We shall talk some more my dear.

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

DOC LYNCH walks back to the trailer. BILLY & ANTOINETTE start to walk toward the pick-up truck.

BILLY

You'll be paid a good wage for an honest day's work. Room and board are free.

ANTOINETTE

You promised me a dime!

ANTOINETTE is annoyed with the lack of communication she is feeling with BILLY. They reach the truck and he opens the door.

BILLY

You do know how to ride ?

He leans into the truck and takes out his wallet from underneath the seat.

ANTOINETTE

Ride ! You mean a horse ?

BILLY hands her a dime.

BILLY

I'm deductin this dime from your first week's wages. Now hurry up and make your call...

She turns and starts to walk away. BILLY slaps her on the rump.

We've got to hit the trail.

She turns around giving him a dirty look as he faces her with a broad smile.

You're sure purty !

She is taken back by his comment and expression. Her anger changes to confusion.

CUT TO:

27. INT. GAS STATION-MORNING

ANTOINETTE is seen placing the dime in the wall pay phone. The OLD MAN is pumping gas into a tractor as she dials the operator.

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

ANTOINETTE

Operator! Thank God your there.  
I'd like to call New York City  
collect. Area code 212-966-7058  
I want to speak with - Mrs Irene  
Lily...

ANTOINETTE looks across the road and can see the Wild West Show caravan - getting ready to pull out onto the road. BILLY drives the pick-up truck pulling the horse trailer across the road and into the gas station...He beeps the horn..

The sound of the OPERATOR making the phone call can be heard then a busy signal.

V.O. OPERATOR

OPERATOR

I'm sorry but the line is  
busy-would you like to call  
later ?

ANTOINETTE

Yes!

She slams the receiver down and waits for the dime to return but it doesn't. She checks the change returner. She hits the phone with her hand.

Damn you!

BILLY beeps the horn several more times. She looks out the window at him with helpless anger. She resigns herself to going outside and confronting him once again.

CUT TO:

28. EXT. GAS STATION-MORNING

ANTOINETTE walks out of the gas station office and BILLY opens the door and jumps out.

ANTOINETTE

Would you be kind enough  
to drive me into town ?

BILLY

My pleasure Miss Lily!

He takes off his hat with a swooping gesture, and she gets into the truck next to DOC LYNCH followed by BILLY.

The pick-up truck is seen pulling out onto the road and heading in the opposite direction of town. The other trucks pull onto the road and follow.

29 EXT. NEW YORK CITY - DAY

A panoramic view of New York City skyline.

CUT TO:

30 INT. MRS IRENE LILY'S MANHATTAN APARTMENT

The apartment is richly decorated. IRENE LILY is SEEN hanging up her white handled telephone. She is a matronly society "Grande Dame". Seated on the couch is her attorney, MR. EDGAR WHITE LIPTON. As she walks over to sit down in the stuffed chair next to him, her maid, ELOISE EBBY enters carrying a small silver tray with caviar and crackers. She sets the tray down on the coffee table and takes her leave.

IRENE

I tell you that John Arlington  
has murdered my helpless little  
step daughter.

EDGAR WHITE LIPTON is a distinguished man in his fifties.

EDGAR

I never should have let them  
marry.

IRENE

What could you have done?

EDGAR

I am the family attorney.

IRENE

But, all his wives seem to  
disappear so mysteriously.

EDGAR

Now don't go getting yourself  
upset.

IRENE

Oh, Edgar! What will become  
of me if she has met her end.

EDGAR

If that is the case, you are  
next in line for her departed  
father's fortune.

A moment of silence.

(CONTINUED)



(Con't.)

IRENE

Oh, Edgar! I just want her  
back, safe in my arms.

( pause )

But, we both know Antoinette  
would want me to carry on...  
Chin up!

EDGAR

I will call the police  
immediately.

IRENE is fifteen years older than EDGAR WHITE LIPTON.  
She walks over to him -- puts her hand through his gray  
hair and ruffles it up.

IRENE

Edgar! You are such a comfort.

CUT TO:

31. INT. BRONCO BILLY'S TRUCK - NIGHT

BILLY is driving the truck with ANTOINETTE seated inbetween  
him and the sleeping DOC LYNCH who is snoring away. The  
road is very bumpy. She is having a hard time falling asleep  
and staying awake at the same time. BILLY is singing a song  
out of tune.

BILLY

I'm an ol' cowhand from  
the Rio Grande...as long as  
I can ride and rope..I'll  
never go broke in this great  
ol' land... 'cause I'm an ol'  
cowhand from the Rio Grande.

ANTOINETTE

Is that the only song you know ?

BILLY

Would you like to sing a duet  
of "Give me a Home Where The  
Buffalo Roam " ?

ANTOINETTE

No, I do not want to sing "Give  
me a Home Where the Buffalo Roam".  
If I had only known you were going  
to the next town instead of the one  
near the motel I would never have  
gotten into this truck.

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

BILLY

I know it must be tough havin the man you love run off with another woman. But things will get better now that you're with the show.

ANTOINETTE

My husband did not run off with another woman. And I have no intention of working in your show!

BILLY likes her spunk.

BILLY

Was you messin with another man ?

ANTOINETTE

No, I wasn't messin with another man. And further more my life is not your concern.

BILLY

SSssh! You'll wake up Doc.

ANTOINETTE

Don't tell me what to do!

BILLY

I'm your boss and don't ever forget it!

ANTOINETTE

You are nothing but an illiterate cowboy!!!

BILLY is SEEN swerving off the road. He pounds the horn.  
ANTOINETTE is frightened for a moment.

BILLY

Nobody talks that way to Bronco Billy and gets away with it !!!

CUT TO:

32. EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

The truck caravan can be SEEN pulling over to the side of the road. There is a full Moon. Billy jumps out of the truck and grabs ANTOINETTE by the arm, pulling her out, she starts to hit him back but he grabs her hand and pushes her away. He gets back into the truck.

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

ANTOINETTE  
Take your hands off me !

BILLY pulls the truck back onto the highway leaving her standing in the road. LEFTY & LEONARD can be seen passing her by.

CUT TO:

33. INT. BRONCO BILLY'S TRUCK-NIGHT

BILLY is steaming mad. DOC LYNCH wakes up for a moment and looks over at him.

DOC  
Where's Miss Lily ?

BILLY  
I threw her out on the road !

DOC  
Oh!

DOC takes a swig of his snake bite remedy, pulls his hat back over his eyes and dozes off.

BILLY  
Nobody says that about a cowboy....

CUT TO:

34. EXT. COUNTRY ROAD-NIGHT

CHIEF BIG EAGLE & RUNNING WATER pull up alongside ANTOINETTE who is rather dumbfounded by the whole incident.

BIG EAGLE  
Ya better get in. It's a long ways to the next town.

ANTOINETTE walks around the front of the truck. RUNNING WATER opens her door and stands on the cab step and helps ANTOINETTE up and into the truck. The truck pulls back onto the road.

CUT TO:

35. INT. BIG EAGLE & RUNNING WATER'S TRUCK-NIGHT

ANTOINETTE is boiling mad. RUNNING WATER lays her head on BIG EAGLE'S shoulder and tries to get to sleep.

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

ANTOINETTE

I'll have him arrested for kidnapping and put behind bars for the rest of his life. Who does he think he is treating me like that.

BIG EAGLE

Why he's Bronco Billy, the best friend a man ever had besides his wife.

RUNNING WATER touches BIG EAGLE'S lips with her fingertips and he gently kisses them.

ANTOINETTE

Best Friend! He didn't understand one thing I said to him all day.

BIG EAGLE

The boss has a lot of responsibilities runnin the show.

ANTOINETTE

( pause )

When will we be arriving in the next town ?

BIG EAGLE

Better get some shut eye.

ANTOINETTE

( to herself )

How dare he put his hands on me.

She crosses her arms in a huff.

CUT TO:

36. INT. BIG EAGLE & RUNNING WATER'S TRUCK - DAY

ANTOINETTE can be SEEN curled up on the seat with an Indian blanket around her, asleep. The sound of little children yelling and laughing can be HEARD. She awakes and looks out the front window to see BRONCO BILLY on his horse BUSTER with several kids riding around in a circle. LASSO LEONARD JAMES is doing lariat tricks, roping some of the children. Standing close by are a group of nuns. ANTOINETTE looks over to a large brick building and notices a sign "ST. PATRICK'S ORPHANAGE". She looks in the mirror, straightens her hair and gets out of the truck.

CUT TO:

37 EXT. ST. PATRICK'S ORPHANAGE - DAY

ANTOINETTE is seen walking alongside the trucks over toward BILLY and the children. DOC LYNCH crosses paths with her. He is dressed in his ring master outfit-with a touch of makeup on his face. He's carrying a big bull whip.

DOC  
I thought you left us  
last night?

ANTOINETTE  
That lunatic  
tried to kill me...

DOC  
(friendly smile)  
He's a good man once  
ya get to know him.

ANTOINETTE feels frustrated from the lack of communication with BILLY and his outfit.

ANTOINETTE  
What's going on here?

DOC  
We perform at a lot of  
orphanages and hospitals  
throughout the country.

DOC LYNCH walks away from her...ANTOINETTE looks over at BILLY who catches her eye. He is seen getting off BUSTER and helping the kids down. MOTHER SUPERIOR claps her hands and speaks out to the children.

MOTHER SUPERIOR  
Children! Children! Let us all  
have our lunch then we can thank  
Bronco Billy for his Wild West Show.

The children are seen running to some picnic tables under nearby trees, followed by the Nuns. BILLY walks over to MOTHER SUPERIOR GABRIELLE avoiding ANTOINETTE who attempts to walk up to him. In the background LEFTY, LEONARD, BIG EAGLE & DOC are setting up the props with RUNNING WATER helping.

MOTHER SUPERIOR  
Billy, I hope you and your friends  
will join us for lunch and prayer.

BILLY  
If you don't mind havin' a bunch  
of sinners at your table...

BILLY changes his tone of voice and humbles himself.

BILLY

We'd be grateful Mother Superior.

She walks to the tables. BILLY shouts out to the Outfit.

Boys! Let's break for chow.

BILLY walks by ANTOINETTE without saying a word - suddenly he turns around and speaks to her.

Even though ya ain't with the  
show - well, if ya wanta get  
somethin to eat, come on.

He walks away from ANTOINETTE who stands and watches him and the rest of his Outfit walk up to the tables.

CUT TO:

38 EXT. TABLE AREA - DAY

BILLY is seated at a table surrounded by kids. They adore him and the rest of the Outfit. ANTOINETTE is seated next to one of the Nun's, SISTER MARIA. MOTHER SUPERIOR GABRIELLE stands up from behind the head table and clicks her knife against a glass. The group becomes quiet.

MOTHER SUPERIOR

Would Bronco Billy give the  
prayer?

BILLY looks up at MOTHER SUPERIOR GABRIELLE with childlike eyes.

BILLY

Lord! We ask you to forgive us  
for our sins. We thank you for  
givin us good chow...food, this day.  
We ask you to show these little cowboys  
the right way to a good life. So they  
won't drink hard liquor or smoke  
cigarettes.

MOTHER SUPERIOR GABRIELLE smiles with fond understanding toward BILLY and his prayer.

...and Lord! Please forgive those  
hombres who wander a little too far  
away from home. Amen!

(CONTINUED)

ALL say Amen and cross themselves including BILLY. ANTOINETTE has been observing BILLY with a suspicious eye. All start to eat. ANTOINETTE turns to SISTER MARIA and speaks.

ANTOINETTE

Sister, may I use your phone.

SISTER MARIA

I'm sorry but we can't afford a phone.

ANTOINETTE

Oh. How much does the Orphanage pay Mr. Bronco for performing here?

SISTER MARIA

Pay? Why Billy and his friends come here every year and make the children happy. But they don't get paid.

ANTOINETTE feels foolish for asking the question. She gets up and goes over to where BRONCO BILLY is sitting and talking to the kids.

BILLY

So I said to One-eye Charlie, the famous desperado. "One-eye, if ya go for your gun ya better have made your peace with Jesus Christ cause I'm faster and meaner than ya, dirty varmint"...

1ST BOY

What'd he do to make you mad Bronco Billy?

BILLY

Why, he talked dirty about my mother.

2ND BOY

So you killed One-eye Charlie!

BILLY

I shot his gun holster right off his hips. Ya see boys - you never want to kill a man unless it's absolutely necessary.

(CONTINUED)

ANTOINETTE walks up. She is not afraid of BILLY but rather on guard not knowing how he will react to her.

ANTOINETTE  
Could I speak to you for  
a moment?

He looks over at her with a half smile.

BILLY  
I'll see you little Pard.

2ND BOY  
Thanks for the show  
Bronco Billy.

The BOYS run off.

ANTOINETTE  
You promised to take me to  
the next town.

BILLY  
Tell ya what! I'll let ya ride  
with us to the next town and  
you work the first show for me  
until I get a replacement, okay?

ANTOINETTE  
You got a deal!

CUT TO:

39 EXT. ORPHANAGE - DAY

The caravan is pulling out while some of the children watch wistfully and wave goodbye.

DISSOLVE TO:

40 INT. BRONCO BILLY'S WILD WEST SHOW TENT - DAY

BUSTER is seen standing alone off to the side of the center arena. BILLY and ANTOINETTE are next to the small prop table with the plates. He is showing her how to throw the plates up in the air and telling her about his routine. He has on his guns.

BILLY  
Buster and I come riding in after  
Doc announces me. I ride around the  
arena doing my tricks and then you run  
here. I will tilt my hat which is  
your cue to pick up two plates. When  
Buster and I reach that red line you  
throw up the first plate - count to  
three and throw up the second. Here  
watch.



He throws up a plate and shoots it apart. DOC LYNCH is seen entering the tent carrying a small box of props.

ANTOINETTE

(smugly)

No problem!

BILLY gives her a knowing smile.

BILLY

It takes long hours of practice  
to do that...

ANTOINETTE pulls out the holstered six shooter and throws up a plate -- blasting it apart. BILLY looks at her in amazement. DOC shouts out.

DOC

Nice shootin Miss Lily!

BILLY

Just beginners luck.

He yanks the revolver out of her hand and holsters it.

DOC

Where'd ya learn to shoot  
like that?

ANTOINETTE

I...

BILLY doesn't give her a chance to answer.

BILLY

Don't you got somethin better  
to do than stand around like  
some prairie dog in heat.

DOC

As a matter of fact, I do.

He walks out of the tent.

BILLY

Your job ain't to shoot the guns.  
I do that. Now get ready to do  
what I told ya.

BILLY swings up onto BUSTER and rides around the arena.

BILLY (continues)  
Pretend I've done my first  
tricks. I nod my hat...

He reaches the red line and ANTOINETTE throws up the plate.  
He blasts it apart then a second one.

BILLY  
(rides over to her)  
I then ride around the arena  
and you wait for me to lift  
and swing you up behind me.

ANTOINETTE  
You're kidding!

BILLY  
Just hold out your left arm.  
I'll grab it and you swing your  
right leg up.

ANTOINETTE  
That's all I have to do?

BILLY  
You got it?

ANTOINETTE  
What happens if I fall?

BILLY  
Trust me!

ANTOINETTE  
Trust!

BILLY  
You'll just have to get back up  
and we'll try it again until ya  
get it.

ANTOINETTE  
No problem!

BILLY gives her a wry look. He rides around the arena once  
and heads for ANTOINETTE who extends her arm. He starts to lift  
her up, but she only gets half way around, hanging sideways onto  
BUSTER. She grabs hold of BILLY with her right hand for dear life.  
He looks down at her with a broad smile.

BILLY  
No problem!

CUT TO:

41 INT. MRS IRENE LILY'S MANHATTAN APARTMENT - MAIN ROOM - DAY  
ELOISE EBBY is opening the door to EDGAR WHITE LIPTON.

EDGAR  
Good day, Eloise. Is  
Mrs. Lily in?

ELOISE  
Yes, Mr. Lipton. Let me tell her  
you are here.

She crosses to a bedroom door and knocks as Edgar waits.

IRENE (O.S.)  
Yes?

ELOISE  
Mr. Lipton is here to see you,  
ma'am.

IRENE (O.S.)  
(flustered)  
Oh, I'll be right out.

Eloise nods to Edgar and exits to the kitchen. In a moment the  
bedroom door opens up and Irene enters wearing a robe over her  
nightgown and making a half-hearted attempt to improve her rather  
rumpled appearance for the unexpected visitor.

IRENE  
Edgar, darling!

EDGAR  
The FBI has just arrested  
John Arlington in Arizona.

IRENE  
What on earth was he doing in  
Arizona?

EDGAR  
I have a strong suspicion he  
was getting ready to flee over  
the Mexican border. He was  
wearing several of Antoinette's  
diamond bracelets. They are  
formally charging him with the  
murder of your step daughter. I  
am going out there to see him.

IRENE  
Has he confessed?

EDGAR  
At the time of his arrest he  
was suffering from amoebic  
dysentary and wasn't able  
to talk.

IRENE  
As soon as he confesses I want  
you to file a petition requesting  
me to be named the benefactor of  
the estate.

EDGAR  
(as he crosses to door)  
Of course. Irene, I want to extend  
to you my deepest sympathy in this  
hour of tragedy.

IRENE  
Oh, that is sweet of you,  
Edgar.

(CONTINUED)

He exits and Irene pauses a moment, bemused by this sudden turn of events; then, with a shrug and an anticipatory smile, she turns and exits to the bedroom.

41A INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Irene crosses to the unmade bed, slowly pulls the covers back to reveal her ELEVATOR BOY LOVER grinning up at her. His uniform is tossed on a chair nearby.

CUT TO:

42 INT. BRONCO BILLY'S WILD WEST SHOW TENT - DAY

BILLY walks up to ANTOINETTE who is strapped onto the Wheel of Fortune. The candles are lit, she is dressed in the skimpy cowgirl outfit.\_

BILLY

(whispers)

Just do what I told ya!

ANTOINETTE

Simple!

BILLY

(theatrical)

Miss Lily would you like  
a blindfold?

ANTOINETTE

No Bronco Billy! You most  
certainly are the finest marksman  
in all the West.

BILLY looks at her with anger in his eyes. She has changed the dialogue of the script.

BILLY

Very well Miss Lily! But I will  
use one.

ANTOINETTE

Must you...Bronco Billy!  
(sarcastic smile)

He takes ten paces away from the Wheel of Fortune, fuming from her last remark. He takes off his bandanna and ties it around his eyes.

(CONTINUED)

BILLY  
Are you ready Miss Lily?

ANTOINETTE  
Yes, Bronco Billy!

BILLY  
Spin the Wheel of Fortune!

TWO GUN LEFTY LeBOW spins the Wheel. BILLY shoots out the four candles and holsters his revolvers then takes out his giant Bowie knife and throws it between her legs breaking the balloon. The audience applauds and cheers. He takes off his blindfold and makes a sweeping bow to the audience. LEFTY is seen unstrapping ANTOINETTE from the Wheel of Fortune. BILLY runs over to her and pulls the knife out and holsters it. He then takes her hand and starts to step forward. ANTOINETTE is very dizzy and starts to fall down. He grabs her but her weight pulls him forward and he stumbles several steps before regaining his balance and his smile.

CUT TO:

43 INT. BRONCO BILLY'S TRAILER - LATE AFTERNOON

BILLY is seated on the couch dressed only in his costume slacks and boots - he is angry. He stands up and walks down the small trailer corridor to the back sleeping compartment and enters. RUNNING WATER and ANTOINETTE are inside changing out of their costumes. ANTOINETTE is in her bra and panties. She screams when she sees BILLY and quickly grabs a towel to cover herself with.

BILLY  
Next time you change the dialogue  
from that piece of paper I gave you  
you're fired.

ANTOINETTE  
How dare you come in here!

BILLY  
Where's the piece of paper?

ANTOINETTE  
I am not accustomed to being  
yelled at.

BILLY rips the towel away from ANTOINETTE.

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

BILLY  
( shouts )  
Where is the paper ?

ANTOINETTE becomes frightened from his outrage. She picks up her little cowgirl skirt and takes the piece of paper out of the pocket. BILLY snatches it from her hand. RUNNING WATER continues to get dressed.

BILLY  
I say, "Miss Lily would you like a blindfold" and you say "No Bronco Billy--You are the the best shot...Not, marksman! And when I say "I will use one " where does it say "Must you Bronco Billy" ? It doesn't say that, Does it ?

He pushes the piece of paper in front of her face.

ANTOINETTE  
No!

BILLY  
Every assistant I've had work for me in the last ten years has said exactly what is written down on this piece of paper. I don't want it changed...and another thing. I own this trailer!

ANTOINETTE  
Are you finished with your little speech ?

BILLY  
Yeah, I'm finished!

ANTOINETTE  
I do not work for you and if you ever raise your voice to me again I will scratch out your eyes.

RUNNING WATER has finished dressing. She walks between BILLY & ANTOINETTE.

RUNNING WATER  
Will we be camping here tonight or movin on ?

BILLY is staring at ANTOINETTE with fire in his eyes.

(CONTINUED)

BILLY  
We're hittin the trail. Now!

He storms out of the small compartment.

ANTOINETTE  
He's a madman!

RUNNING WATER  
Is he?

RUNNING WATER looks straight at ANTOINETTE for a moment, then walks out of the compartment. ANTOINETTE sits down on the little bed. She is exhausted from the scene.

ANTOINETTE  
John Arlington, I'm going to murder you for doing this to me!!!

CUT TO:

44 OMIT

45 EXT. MEREDIAN, IDAHO - DAY

The Main Street of MEREDIAN, IDAHO is crowded with farmers and ranchers, trucks and tractors. BRONCO BILLY'S truck caravan is parked across the road from the CHICKASHA CAFE. BILLY is seen walking BUSTER slowly around a bucket of water. DOC LYNCH walks across the street from the cafe carrying a cup of coffee over to BILLY. He hands him the cup.

DOC  
How's Buster feelin?

BILLY  
Poorly Doc, poorly.

DOC  
It's just his arthritis actin up again.

DOC pulls out a bottle of his snake bit remedy from his coat pocket.

Couple of spoonsfuls of my snake bit oughta fix this ol' boy up like new.

(CONTINUED)



(Con't.)

DOC feeds BUSTER the medicine and the horse shakes his head after tasting it.

BILLY

One of these days I'll get that ranch and let ol' Buster out to pasture.

DOC

Running Water told me about your run in with Miss Lily.

BILLY

I say good ridance to that woman. She couldn't cut the bacon. I'm glad she got out of the frying pan before I wasted to much time on her.

DOC

Its kinda ashame. I thought she did pretty good for her first show.

BILLY

She don't know how to take orders. I gave her the piece of paper and she still couldn't say the right words.

DOC

She's a dam good shot.

BILLY

I don't want to talk about her ever again.

DOC

You're the boss !

BILLY pats BUSTER on the neck.

BILLY

She got her ride to the next town and a free breakfast on the house.

DOC

That was mighty kind of you.

BILLY

She don't wanta work. No wonder her husband ran off and left her.

BILLY looks across the street and sees ANTOINETTE walk out of the cafe toward the telephone booth on the side of the building.

CUT TO:

46 EXT. CHICKASHA CAFE - DAY

ANTOINETTE walks by the newspaper stand next to the phone booth and catches a glimpse of the headline which reads. "HEIRESS MURDERED with the sub-headline "HUSBAND ARRESTED". A COWBOY comes over to the stand and puts a dime in to take a paper. Before the lid closes she catches it. He walks away and she slips out a paper and reads it. A small photograph of ANTOINETTE and JOHN ARLINGTON is seen on the front page. She doesn't notice LEFTY walk up behind her.

LEFTY

Can I read the sport section?

ANTOINETTE is startled for a moment.

ANTOINETTE

You may!

She starts to take the sport section out and he grabs the whole paper and looks at the front page.

LEFTY

A rich society dame got murdered. How 'bout that!

He hands back the front page and takes the sport section.

So long ma'am!

He walks away from her and heads across the street. LEONARD, BIG EAGLE AND RUNNING WATER come out of the Cafe and yell over to Antoinette.

BIG EAGLE

Good-bye Miss Lily!

LEONARD

Its too bad you can't come along with us...Well, so long and happy trails.

RUNNING WATER just nods so long and they are seen walking across the street toward the trucks. ANTOINETTE looks down at the newspaper headline and over toward BILLY and the Outfit.

CUT TO:

CUT TO:

47 INT. JAIL - DAY

JOHN ARLINGTON is seated alone inside the small cell. He is wearing prison garb and a Mexican sombrero. The sound of the cell door can be heard opening. The GUARD looks in.

GUARD

You've got a visitor from New York.

JOHN ARLINGTON sits up quickly.

JOHN

Is it my wife?

EDGAR WHITE LIPTON enters.

GUARD

You've got five minutes.

The GUARD locks the door.

EDGAR

You're looking well, John.

JOHN

That's easy for you to say.  
You didn't have amoebic dysentary.

EDGAR

John! I've known Antoinette since she was a little girl. Believe me, I don't blame you for murdering her.

JOHN

I didn't murder that...that cold blooded viper.

EDGAR

The sooner you confess the sooner we can all benefit.

JOHN

(startled)

Benefit!

EDGAR

John, I know how much you must have loved her to have done such a thing. The living must go on living. What has happened has happened.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

Edgar! I'm facing the electric chair - or something - and you're talking about the living must go on living.

EDGAR

I guarantee that if you plead temporary insanity - you won't spend more than three years in a mental institution.

JOHN

(suspicious)

What are you getting at?

EDGAR

You confess to Antoinette's murder and on the day you are released from the institution... you will receive half a million dollars.

PAUSE: JOHN ARLINGTON is still suspicious but his greed is making him become intrigued with the offer.

JOHN

But what if they don't buy it and I'm sent to the electric chair - or something?

EDGAR

(gives a devilish wink)

They'll buy it! I can arrange anything. You know that.

JOHN

Those mental institutions are supposed to be maddening.

EDGAR

I know of some that have swimming pools and tennis courts. Your own private room with a color TV and maid service.

JOHN ponders the proposal.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

Five hundred thousand  
dollars. How much after  
taxes?

EDGAR

If you invest wisely you  
won't have to pay a dime.

JOHN

(smiles)

I didn't mean to kill her.  
But she was driving me crazy.

CUT TO:

48 OMIT

49 INT. BRONCO BILLY'S TRUCK - DAY

BILLY walks up to the driver's side of the truck and opens the  
door. ANTOINETTE LILY is seated inside.

BILLY

What the heck you doin in  
there?

ANTOINETTE

You still need an assistant,  
don't you!

BILLY

I'm the head ramrod in this  
outfit. I give the orders and  
you take 'em.

BILLY still grates on ANTOINETTE but she has decided to play  
along for a while.

ANTOINETTE

Yes, Bronco Billy!

BILLY

Now get outta the truck!

ANTOINETTE

What for? Aren't we headin'  
down the ol' trail...  
(a touch of sarcasm)

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

BILLY

Ya gotta first prove to  
me you're gonna work hard  
before ya ride with the  
head ramrod.....

ANTOINETTE

Oh, I do! Do I....

BILLY

Ya want the job or don't  
ya ?

DOC appears on the other side of the truck. ANTOINETTE  
controls her anger and gets out.

CUT TO:

50. INT. LEONARD & LEFTY'S TRUCK-DAY

ANTOINETTE is seated between the two men. LEONARD is repairing  
one of his lariat's. They are traveling behind BILLY'S truck.

ANTOINETTE

Lefty. Is Lefty your real  
name ?

LEFTY

What's it to ya ?

ANTOINETTE

...just trying to make  
the time pass more quickly.

LEFTY

Why ya want the time to  
pass quick ?

ANTOINETTE

Don't you find life rather  
boring ?

LEFTY

Nope!

ANTOINETTE

I can see you and I don't  
have much to talk about....

LEFTY

Reckon we don't.

(CONTINUED)

ANTOINETTE picks up a pack of cigarettes off the dash and places one in her mouth. LEONARD turns and lights it.

ANTOINETTE

Leonard, how long have you been with Bronco Billy?

LEONARD

Oh, it must be goin on nine years.

ANTOINETTE

Did your father teach you how to use a lasso?

LEONARD

He never taught me nothin. Never gave me nothin but whuppins. Billy taught me everything I know and gave me a home.

ANTOINETTE

(sarcastic)

That's very touching!

LEONARD

I know where you come from Miss Lily, but they must not have given you any love when you was a little girl.

She is taken back by his comment and becomes silent.

CUT TO:

51 OMIT

52 INT. STATE FAIRGROUNDS - DAY

BRONCO BILLY'S WILD WEST SHOW caravan drives through the front gate and passes by the different booths and shows that are setting up for the Fair. BILLY steers his truck into lot 9. BILLY and the rest of the Outfit get out of their trucks. They all come together.

BILLY

It sure feels good to be back.

LEONARD

I'm hungry!

BILLY  
You're always hungry. Lets  
get the big tent up and then  
we'll put the feedbag on.

BIG EAGLE and RUNNING WATER walk away followed by LEONARD, DOC  
and LEFTY. ANTOINETTE doesn't know what to do.

ANTOINETTE  
What would you like me to do?

BILLY  
Go help the boys!

ANTOINETTE  
And what are you going to do?

BILLY  
I do the thinkin around here.

ANTOINETTE  
(sarcastic)  
Oh! I hadn't noticed.

3 EXT. BRONCO BILLY'S TRAILER - LATE AFTERNOON

CHIEF BIG EAGLE and LORRAINE RUNNING WATER are SEEN walking up  
to the trailer and knocking on the door. BILLY shouts out.

BILLY (V.O.)  
I'ts open! Come on in.

They hesitate for a moment.

(CONTINUED)



(Con't.)

RUNNING WATER  
He'll understand!

BIG EAGLE  
I hope so!

CUT TO:

54. INT. BRONCO BILLY'S TRAILER-LATE AFTERNOON

BILLY is practicing his quick draw and twirling tricks in front of the mirror. BIG EAGLE & RUNNING WATER enter.

BILLY  
Chief, is everything set up?

BIG EAGLE  
We still have some patch work to do on the tent.

BILLY  
I don't want ya to get bit by those rattlers anymore so for Christsake use those gopher snakes. Thats why I bought 'em.

BIG EAGLE  
Sure Billy.

RUNNING WATER  
Tell him!

BILLY turns and faces them.

BILLY  
Tell me what?

BIG EAGLE  
ah, well, ah....

BILLY  
Spit it out! I'm always here to help.

BIG EAGLE  
Running Water is gonna have a baby.

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

BILLY quick draws his revolvers and points them at BIG EAGLE & RUNNING WATER who take a step back. He points the guns skyward and fires three shots and starts to hoot and holler. BIG EAGLE & RUNNING WATER look at each other with smiles. BILLY hugs them both.

BILLY

I'm gonna be an uncle!

BIG EAGLE

You ain't mad!

BILLY

Mad! Hell, this is the best news I've heard in a long time.

RUNNING WATER

We know money's tight.

BILLY

We're gonna have to get you folks a trailer and that little Pard is gonna need some clothes.

The trailer door swings open and LEFTY, LEONARD & DOC enter.

LEFTY

Whats all the shootin about ?

BILLY

Running Water & Big Eagle are gonna have a baby.

DOC

Congratulations!

LEFTY

Nice goin Chief!

LEONARD

I hope you both will be very happy.

In the background can be seen ANTOINETTE standing in the doorway. She is envious of the love and friendship the people have.

BILLY

Lets get our duds on and go int. town and raise some

(Con't.)

BILLY

(Mimicks her)

How dare you call me a fish.  
Well its the truth. Ya don't  
know how to have fun.

ANTOINETTE picks up a beer and chug-a-lugs it completely  
down. BILLY picks up a beer and he too downs it with one  
chug.

ANTOINETTE

Fun! You call your life fun?

She picks up another beer and chug-a-lugs it.

BILLY

Your daddy sure as heck didn't  
take a belt to your backside and  
teach you some respect!

ANTOINETTE

My father was a great man!

BILLY chugs down another beer.

He went to heaven when I was  
nine years old.

BILLY

I'm sorry. I didn't know!

ANTOINETTE

Theres a whole wide world you  
don't know about-Mr. Bronco Billy.

The MUSIC changes into a slow number. BIG EAGLE & RUNNING WATER  
get up and start to dance.

DOC

I think I'll stagger up to  
the bar and introduce myself  
to that little redhead.

DOC gets up and walks over to the bar. ANTOINETTE and BILLY are  
seated alone. Tears swell up in ANTOINETTE'S eyes.

ANTOINETTE

People are such idiots !

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

BILLY  
Go on and let those teardrops  
fall in your beer.

BILLY takes off his bandanna and hands it to her.

ANTOINETTE  
I am not crying !

She blows her nose.

BILLY  
There ain't nothin wrong with  
crying.

ANTOINETTE  
The cigarette smoke is burning  
my eyes.

BILLY  
Did ya ever try to be nice  
to folks ?

ANTOINETTE  
Folks....just want to take !

BILLY  
Girl, you're sure mixed up!

ANTOINETTE  
No I'm not !

BILLY  
( stands )  
Get up!

ANTOINETTE  
What for ?

BILLY  
Cause I wanta dance with  
you, Miss Lily.

She looks up at him, his hand extended out. She starts  
to get up but falls backwards. He pulls her up to her feet.

ANTOINETTE  
Dance ?

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

BILLY

Once ya take the first step...  
its real easy.

He leads her onto the dance floor. As soon as they embrace the music changes into a fast foot stomping number. BILLY is a clumsy dancer and ANTOINETTE is very drunk-together they make a comical act, bumping into different people. She starts to loosen up and dance rather suggestively. BILLY picks up her advances and he too dances suggestively. They're so drunk that they both fall down on the dance floor. People are dancing all around them.

BILLY

If only you knew how to  
shoot straight...

ANTOINETTE

I can out shoot you any day  
in the week

BILLY

(Smiles)

You're sure purty!

ANTOINETTE

I bet you say that to all the  
girls-Bronco Billy....

He pulls her into his arms and kisses her. She is startled by his act and slaps him across the face.

How dare you! What kind of  
girl do you think I am ?

She staggers to her feet and bumps into several people.

BILLY

I only kissed you !

ANTOINETTE bumps into a tough looking COWBOY who pushes her away. BILLY is on his feet and walks over to the man.

COWBOY

Hey, watch it !

BILLY

Don't push the lady!

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

The COWBOY punches BILLY in the face knocking him back onto the bandstand. The whole bar comes alive. LEFTY punches the COWBOY and knocks him down, soon everybody is fighting. ANTOINETTE runs out of the bar. BILLY jumps into the fight swinging and kicking. LEONARD, BIG EAGLE and DUC join in. All are having a high time fighting, hooting, and hollering. RUNNING WATER has stepped up on the bandstand and is watching the brawl, with a beer bottle in her hand for protection .

CUT TO:

56. EXT. RED & RAY'S TAVERN -NIGHT

ANTOINETTE can be seen staggering out towards BILLY'S Pontiac Bonneville convertible. Two rough looking COWBOYS are leaning against a pick-up truck passing a bottle of whiskey back and forth. ANTOINETTE walks near them.

1st COWBOY  
Ham, care for a drink ?

ANTOINETTE does not answer. The 2nd COWBOY grabs her by the back of her hair and pulls her into him.

2nd COWBOY  
My friend asked ya if you  
wanted a drink.

ANTOINETTE  
Let go of me!

1st COWBOY  
Have a little drink!

The 1st COWBOY pours some whiskey down ANTOINETTE'S throat. She struggles but the two men hold her. The second COWBOY puts his hand inside her blouse and feels her breast.

2nd COWBOY  
We just wanta get to know  
ya.

She screams and slaps the man's face. The 1st COWBOY puts his hand around her mouth but she bites him.

1st COWBOY  
We got us a real hellcat!

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

The COWBOYS pull her toward the cab of their truck. The 1st COWBOY rips her blouse open. ANTOINETTE is screaming and kicking, but they are too strong for her. The 2nd COWBOY pulls her into the cab, pinning her down on the seat. He lifts up her dress and attempts to rape her.

A hand is seen on the man's shoulder. He is pulled back out of the truck, onto the pavement. BILLY is all over the man; punching and kicking him brutally. BIG EAGLE is seen holding a knife to the 1st COWBOY'S throat. DOC, LEFTY & LEONARD stand around BILLY as he beats up the 2nd COWBOY. They occasionally kick the man when he is down on the ground. RUNNING WATER helps ANTOINETTE out of the truck and over to the Pontiac.

2nd COWBOY  
I've had enough, enough!

BILLY  
Like hell you have!

BILLY knocks the man out. LEONARD & LEFTY drag him over to where BIG EAGLE is holding the 1st COWBOY and throw him into the back of the truck.

1st COWBOY  
Don't kill me! Please.

BILLY  
Killins to good for ya!

BIG EAGLE takes the knife away from the man's throat and BILLY kicks him in the groin and punches him back against the truck. BIG EAGLE & LEONARD throw him into the back of the truck on top of the other Cowboy.

CUT TO:

# 57. EXT. BILLY'S PONTIAC-NIGHT

RUNNING WATER has her arm around ANTOINETTE. The men walk over to the car. Next to the Pontiac is BILLY'S pick-up truck.

BILLY  
You alright Miss Lily ?

RUNNING WATER  
Of course she ain't alright !

BILLY  
I'll drive her back to the show.

BILLY & ANTOINETTE get into the Pontiac and drive off. The rest

(Con't.)

LEONARD

The night is young and I'm  
young and full of more fight  
then any hombre west of the  
Pecos....Come on, lets have  
some more fun-she'll be alright.

BIG EAGLE

Running Water and I are  
going back.

LEONARD

Doc ? Leity ?

LEFTY

Kid, you go on and kick  
up a storm.

DOC starts the truck.

CUT TO:

INT. BRONCO BILLY'S TRAILER-NIGHT

ANTOINETTE is seated on the bed in the rear compartment. BILLY  
walks in with a cup of coffee. She is wearing his jacket.

BILLY

It ain't real hot.

She takes the cup from him and has a sip.

Ya okay ?

ANTOINETTE

(Softly)

I'm still shaking.

BILLY sits down next to her.

BILLY

Everybodys frightened once  
in awhile.

ANTOINETTE

Have you ever been married ?

BILLY

Yup! A long, long time ago.

(CONTINUED)



ANTOINETTE  
Did you love her?

BILLY  
With all my heart. But  
sometimes that just ain't  
enough.

ANTOINETTE  
What happened?

BILLY  
I caught her in bed with  
my best friend.

ANTOINETTE  
What did you do to him?

BILLY  
I shot her.

ANTOINETTE  
(exasperated)  
What about him?

BILLY  
He was my best friend.

ANTOINETTE  
My God!!

BILLY  
I didn't kill her but I spent  
seven years in Folsom Prison for  
attempted murder. I ain't complainin.  
I met some good men behind those gray  
walls. Like Doc Lynch and Two Gun Lefty  
LeBow, Chief Big Eagle; who was doin  
5 to 10 for armed robbery.

ANTOINETTE  
What did Doc and Lefty do?

BILLY  
Doc was in for practicing medicine  
without a license. Lefty was a bank  
teller who had a wife with expensive  
habits. He meant to give the money back  
and I believe him.

ANTOINETTE  
None of you look like convicts.

(CONTINUED)

BILLY  
We've served our time.

ANTOINETTE  
(questioning look)  
Are you for real?

BILLY  
I am, who I want to be!

BILLY puts his arm around her shoulder.

ANTOINETTE  
I've never had a convict  
hold me in his arms...I'm  
sorry I didn't mean to say that.

BILLY  
I've paid the price!

He touches the side of her face with his hand. She shys away from him.

ANTOINETTE  
I don't...

ANTOINETTE feels awkward with BILLY'S affection.

BILLY  
That's alright. You'll know  
when the time comes.

The CAMERA HOLDS on the two seated in silence.

DISSOLVE TO:

59 INT. BRONCO BILLY'S TRAILER - MORNING

BILLY & ANTOINETTE are seen cuddled up together in bed. Both are fully clothed. A knock on the trailer door can be heard. BILLY wakes up, and gently feels ANTOINETTE'S hair. She remains asleep.

CUT TO:

60 EXT. BRONCO BILLY'S TRAILER - MORNING

DOC is seen knocking on the door. BILLY opens the door.

(Con't.)

BILLY  
Mornin Doc!

DOC  
Billy, the Sheriff called  
the front gate and says he's  
got Leonard locked  
up in his jail.

CUT TO:

61. INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE-MORNING

BILLY, DOC & LEFTY are seen entering the Sheriff's office.  
SHERIFF DIX is a burly man in his fifties.

BILLY  
(Smiles)  
Sheriff, I hear ya got  
one of my wranglers in  
your calaboose.

SHERIFF  
What's his name ?

BILLY  
Leonard James.

SHERIFF DIX looks over to DOC & LEFTY who do not feel comfortable  
in his presence.

SHERIFF  
Are the rest of you waiting  
to see me ?

BILLY  
They're with me Sheriff. I  
run the Bronco Billy Wild West  
Show.

The SHERIFF is looking through his arrest sheet.

We're performing over at  
the fairgrounds tonight...

SHERIFF  
James, Leonard..Age 28..Drunk  
and disorderly conduct in a public  
place...Resisting arrest.

BILLY smiles at the SHERIFF.

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

BILLY

We was out celebratin last night and I reckon Leonard kicked his heels a little to high.

SHERIFF

(Serious)

Fella, we ran a routine check on your boy. Did you know he's wanted for desertion from the U.S. Army ?

BILLY and the rest of the Bunch lose their smiles.

BILLY

You must have the wrong man!

SHERIFF

Finger prints don't lie. Your boy's a coward-he didn't want to fight in Vietnam.

BILLY

Can we see him ?

SHERIFF

Just one of ya!

CUT TO:

62. INT. VISITORS ROOM-DAY

BILLY is seated in front of a glass wall with a counter that has telephones. LEONARD is led into the room by a guard. Other prisoners are already seated and talking to their visitors. LEONARD has a black-eye. They both pick up the phones.

LEONARD

(Happy to see Billy)

Hi Boss!

BILLY starts shouting into the phone.

BILLY

What the hell did you have to go and become a deserter for ? I've got a show to run. Where the hell am I gonna find someone whose as good as you with a lariat before show time ?

(Con't.)

LEONARD

(Sad)

Sorry boss! I was a young kid when it happened.

BILLY

You're in big trouble, Leonard!

LEONARD

Billy! Do they still shoot deserters ?

BILLY

It would teach ya a lesson if they did ! A goddam deserter workin in my show. And to think what those little pards, who look up to you, are gonna think when they find out.

LEONARD

Couldn't ya just tell 'em I died with my boots on ?

BILLY

What happened to your eye ?

LEONARD

A couple of the deputys, when they found out about me being a deserter, took me into the back room....

BILLY

Damit! Why didn't ya come to me ?

LEONARD

I was on the run nine years ago. You took me in and gave me a home..

BILLY

I couldn't let ya just stand out in the rain.

LEONARD

I didn't want you involved in it.

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

BILLY

Well, it looks like this is  
the end of the trail. You take  
care now.

BILLY hangs up the phone and walks away from LEONARD who  
just sits and watches him walk out of the room. He is full  
of sadness.

CUT TO:

63. EXT. JAIL HOUSE-DAY

BILLY, DOC & LEFTY are seen walking out of the building.

LEFTY

You can't just walk out and  
leave him!

BILLY

He's a deserter! He deserves  
what he gets.

CUT TO:

64. EXT. BRONCO BILLY'S WILD WEST SHOW TENT-LATE AFTERNOON

DOC, LEFTY, CHIEF EAGLE, RUNNING WATER & ANTOINETTE are seen  
seated on a bench in front of the big tent.

BIG EAGLE

I don't believe Billy is  
just gonna let him rot  
in jail.

ANTOINETTE

What can he do? The Army is  
too powerful even for Bronco Billy.

LEFTY

Its not like him to just walk  
out on a friend.

DOC

Desertion is a very serious  
charge to beat.

ANTOINETTE

What if you found a lawyer to  
defend Leonard?

(Con't.)

DOC  
Lawyers cost money and that's  
one luxury we're always short on.

CUT TO:

65. INT. BRONCO BILLY'S TRAILER-LATE AFTERNOON

BILLY is seen taking a small metal box from underneath a floor paneling which is behind the dressing table. He opens it and inside are several documents and a small bundle of money. BILLY takes the money out of the box. He holds it for several seconds deep in thought before placing it in his pants pocket and then replaces the metal box back in the floor opening-moving the dressing table over it. He puts on his hat and takes one of his revolvers out of its holster and places it in his belt. The gun is hidden by his western jacket.

CUT TO:

66. EXT. BRONCO BILLY'S WILD WEST SHOW TENT-LATE AFTERNOON

BILLY is seen pulling out onto the midway of the fairgrounds in the Pontiac. DOC, LEFTY, BIG EAGLE, RUNNING WATER & ANTOINETTE watch him start to drive off.

LEFTY  
Billy! Where ya goin ?

BILLY yells out!

BILLY  
Get ready for the show!

He drives away.

CUT TO:

67. EXT. COUNTRY ROAD-SUNSET

BILLY is leaning against the Pontiac. A man alone. The sun setting in the background. In the field opposite him is an oil well surrounded by grazing cattle. Coming down the road is the Sheriff's car. BILLY takes out his revolver and spins the cylinder replacing the gun in his belt. The SHERIFF drives up next to him and gets out.

BILLY  
Sheriff....I appreciate you  
meetin with me out here.

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

SHERIFF

Your phone call was rather interesting.

BILLY

The way I see it, if my man gets sent up for desertion- there's no profit in it for any of us.

SHERIFF

What kind of profit we talkin about ?

BILLY takes out half of his money. The SHERIFF notices his revolver.

BILLY

Five hundred dollars!

SHERIFF

How fast are you with that pea shooter ?

BILLY

Fast enough!

SHERIFF

I'm pretty fast myself!  
(Smiles)

BILLY doesn't say anything.

Five hundred dollars ain't a whole lot of money for me to take a big risk.

BILLY pulls out the remainder of his money.

BILLY

That's all I got. It comes to eleven hundred dollars.

SHERIFF

Is that so! Ya think your faster than me ?

BILLY

I wouldn't want to find out!

(CONTINUED)



(Con't.)

SHERIFF

(Deceivous glare)

Why ain't you Bronco Billy  
the fastest gun in the west ?  
The roughest, toughest hombre  
this side of Dodge City ?

BILLY can feel the SHERIFF mocking him.

BILLY

I'm just tryin to make a  
livin like everyone else.

SHERIFF

Shit! I could out draw you  
any day of the week.

(Shouts)

Couldn't I !

BILLY is trying to control his temper.

BILLY

I reckon!

SHERIFF

You reckon! Let me hear ya  
say it or do you want to find  
out just how fast I am ?

The SHERIFF backs away from BILLY.

Whats it gonna be ?

BILLY clenches his fist back and forth limbering up his fingers.

I betcha your as big a coward  
as that deserter friend of yours.

BILLY

I know...you're faster than me.

SHERIFF

What you say ?

BILLY

You're faster than me!

SHERIFF

Now take your gun out slow and  
easy and drop it on the ground.

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

BILLY is pushed to the test. Anger in his eyes-he does what the SHERIFF has asked. He slowly takes out his revolver and drops it on the ground. The SHERIFF is seen laughing at him.

SHERIFF  
Bronco Billy! You ain't  
nothin but a yellow belly  
egg sucker.

BILLY stands stripped of his dignity-still holding the money in his hand.

CUT TO:

68. INT. BRONCO BILLY'S WILD WEST SHOW TENT-NIGHT

People can be seen filling up the grandstands. ANTOINETTE is selling peanuts, popcorn and cokes to the audience.

ANTOINETTE  
Get your peanuts, popcorn,  
cokes...Peanuts, popcorn, cokes.

A man buys several boxes of popcorn and some cokes for his family. LEFTY is seen walking out through the front of the tent and toward the box office.

CUT TO:

69. EXT. BRONCO BILLY'S WILD WEST SHOW TENT-NIGHT

LEFTY walks over to the Box Office run by RUNNING WATER. The entire midway is lit up and full of people. Across the road can be seen KING TUCKER and his FREAK SHOW. LEFTY speaks to RUNNING WATER.

LEFTY  
Have you seen the boss ?

RUNNING WATER  
Not Yet!

LEFTY  
Ten minutes til show time.

RUNNING WATER  
This will be the first full  
house since Dodge City.

She hangs out a sign in front of the Box Office. "SOLD OUT".

CUT TO.

## 70. INT. BRONCO BILLY'S WILD WEST SHOW TENT-NIGHT

DOC is standing inside the PERFORMERS ENTRANCE-EXIT surveying the audience. CHIEF BIG EAGLE walks up to him. He is wearing his breech-cloth and his body is painted.

BIG EAGLE  
No sign of Billy ?

DOC  
He'll show up!

BIG EAGLE  
What if he doesn't ?

DOC  
Then you'll do the longest  
rattlesnake dance of your life!

BIG EAGLE  
He'll show up!

ANTOINETTE walks over to DOC & BIG EAGLE, with her empty peanut, popcorn, coke tray.

ANTOINETTE  
I sold everything but the  
empty box.

She's proud of her accomplishment.

Any sign of Bronco Billy ?

DOC  
I've never known him to miss  
a show yet.

The AUDIENCE is starting to become impatient. They begin to stomp their feet. RUNNING WATER walks up, and stands next to BIG EAGLE.

RUNNING WATER  
He's not on the midway.

DOC  
Then I suggest...On with  
the show!

DOC LYNCH runs out into the center of the arena and starts to snap his bullwhip and shoot his small derringer pistol. The Audience settles down.

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

DOC  
Ladies and Gents-lemen,  
boys and ga'ls, we welcome  
you this evening to the  
greatest, the most authentic  
Wild West Show in America...

CUT BACK TO:

ANTOINETTE, BIG EAGLE, RUNNING WATER & LEFTY standing in the  
PERFORMERS ENTRANCE-EXIT. DOC LYNCH can barely be heard.

ANTOINETTE  
Well, I'd better go and  
put on my costume.

ANTOINETTE walks away toward the trailer. LEFTY speaks to  
BIG EAGLE & RUNNING WATER.

LEFTY  
She's brought us bad luck!

RUNNING WATER  
Don't talk that way.

LEFTY  
It's true and you know it!

DOC LYNCH can be heard.

DOC  
Chief Big Eagle the great  
great grandson of the great  
Apache Chief Geronimo will  
perform....

RUNNING WATER starts to beat on the tom tom drum and walks  
out to her place next to the arena and sitsdown. DOC LYNCH  
can be heard.

DOC  
...rattlesnake dance that  
no white man has ever seen.

The sound of tom tom drums begins to beat louder and CHIEF  
BIG EAGLE comes dancing out to the center of the arena.

CUT TO:

## 71. INT. BRONCO BILLY'S TRAILER-NIGHT

ANTOINETTE has changed into her cowgirl outfit. She is seated at the dressing table putting on her make up. The door swings open and BILLY enters. ANTOINETTE turns around....

ANTOINETTE  
Bronco Billy!

She runs over and hugs him. She is surprised that she is pleased to see him. BILLY smiles but behind it is the awareness that he has been forced to swallow his pride. This hurts even more - then giving up his life's savings.

BILLY  
Stand aside woman. We've got  
a show to do.

ANTOINETTE and BILLY separate. LEONARD enters the trailer. He is carrying his lasso. BILLY changes into his costume.

ANTOINETTE  
Leonard ? Your hurt.

She touches his bruised face.

LEONARD  
Those yahoos couldn't  
hurt Lasso Leonard James.

BILLY  
Quit chewin the cud and  
lets get goin.

CUT TO:

## 72. INT. BRONCO BILLY'S WILD WEST SHOW TENT-NIGHT

CHIEF BIG EAGLE is doing his Apache Rattlesnake Dance. The Audience is becoming bored with the act and starts to boo and hoot.

Several TEEN-AGE BOYS seated at the top of the stands are seen taking out firecrackers and lighting them and then dropping them under the bleacher seats. The sparks from the firecrackers sets the dry hay on the ground on fire. One boy throws some firecrackers at CHIEF BIG EAGLE, hitting him in the back. He jumps away, dropping the snake from his mouth. It slithers into the Audience and several people get frightened and push to get away from the snake.

The fire spreads up the side of the tent and people start to shout .

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

MAN  
Fire! Fire!

PEOPLE start to scream. The TEEN-AGE BOYS are seen running out of the tent. DOC LYNCH, BIG EAGLE, RUNNING WATER & LEFTY sense the panic.

CUT TO:

73. EXT. BACK OF BIG TENT-NIGHT

BILLY is seen leading BUSTER toward the tent. He is met by ANTOINETTE and LEONARD.

ANTOINETTE  
But how did he get you out  
of jail ?

LEONARD  
Billy can do anything.

ANTOINETTE notices the fire in the tent first.

ANTOINETTE  
The tents on fire !

BILLY swings up onto BUSTER and rides toward the PERFORMERS ENTRANCE-EXIT. ANTOINETTE & LEONARD run behind him.

CUT TO:

74. INT. BRONCO BILLY'S WILD WEST SHOW TENT-NIGHT

People are seen panicking. They are pushing and shoving to get away from the flames. The fire is burning just on one side of the tent. DOC, LEFTY, BIG EAGLE & RUNNING WATER are helping people toward the front entrance. ALL of a sudden BRONCO BILLY comes galloping into the center arena. He's firing his guns up into the air and for a moment people calm down.

BILLY  
Alright you buckeroos! Lets  
not panic. You men take your  
women and children by the hand  
and lets walk out of here.

PEOPLE start to calm down by the appearance of BILLY. ANTOINETTE is seen lifting up a little girl in her arms and carrying her out of the tent. LEONARD is helping an elderly couple.

BILLY  
Don't panic...everythings  
gonna be alright...keep on

## 75. EXT. BRONCO BILLY'S WILD WEST SHOW TENT-NIGHT

PEOPLE are standing around, watching the Big Tent burn to the ground. The flames splash across BILLY'S face as he stands next to BUSTER. The rest of the Outfit is close by. All eyes are sad. LEFTY looks over at ANTOINETTE. He feels she has brought bad luck. DOC LYNCH walks over to BILLY.

DOC

Thank the good Lord  
nobody was hurt.

BILLY

(Softly)

Yeah!

LEFTY walks over to the other side of BILLY.

LEFTY

It's Miss Lily's fault.  
She's brought us bad luck!

BIG EAGLE & RUNNING WATER walk up behind BILLY. BIG EAGLE puts his hand on BILLY'S shoulder. LEONARD stands next to LEFTY. They all watch the Big Tent collapse in flames. ANTOINETTE is standing a distance away-alone. The sound of firetrucks is heard.

DISSOLVE TO:

## 76. EXT. BRONCO BILLY'S WILD WEST SHOW ENCAMPMENT-MORNING

Early morning and the State Fairground is quiet. LEFTY, BIG EAGLE & RUNNING WATER are seated around a camp-fire on which a pot of coffee is boiling. RUNNING WATER is frying up some bacon and eggs on a large skillet.

LEFTY

The sooner the boss gets  
rid of her the sooner our  
luck will change.

RUNNING WATER

Miss Lily didn't start the  
fire !

LEFTY

She's bad luck I tell ya!

BIG EAGLE

Honey, Lefty's right. She's  
bad luck.

RUNNING WATER is surprised that BIG EAGLE feels that way about ANTOINETTE. KING, manager of one of the midway shows, comes walking over to the campfire.

RUNNING WATER  
Can I pour ya a cup of  
coffee?

KING  
Thank you Running Water.

He sits down on a stool next to the campfire.

It looks like lady luck  
wasn't shining down on  
you boys this time.

LEFTY  
You can say that again.

RUNNING WATER hands KING the cup of coffee. BIG EAGLE dishes out some eggs and bacon onto his plate. BILLY walks over to the campfire. He picks up the coffee pot and pours himself a cup.

BILLY  
Mornin ol' Pard!

KING  
Billy, what are your plans?

BILLY  
The sun is always shinin  
over the next valley. I figure  
that's where we'll find our  
pot of gold.

KING takes out a wad of dollar bills and starts to hand it to BILLY. ANTOINETTE can be seen in the background walking over to the campfire.

KING  
We took up a collection along  
the midway. It ain't a lot but  
it's a start to get you all back  
on your feet.

BILLY is touched by the gesture.

(CONTINUED)



BILLY

We'll be pullin out this mornin. I'd be mighty grateful if ya thank everyone for me.

KING

Sure will Billy.

ANTOINETTE picks up a cup and is about to pour herself some... coffee, when LEFTY grabs the pot and empties it out over the fire, making it smoke up in her face.

LEFTY

Lets get out of here!

LEONARD is just walking up to the campfire when LEFTY walks away. ANTOINETTE feels LEFTY'S dislike for her. RUNNING WATER is not sure whether she has brought bad luck or not. LEONARD likes her.

LEONARD

Howdy...

CUT TO:

77 INT. FAIRGROUNDS MIDWAY - MORNING

BRONCO BILLY'S WILD WEST SHOW caravan is seen pulling out and heading down the midway toward the front gate. KING watches them from his FREAK SHOW, pull away.

CUT TO:

78 INT. LEFTY & LEONARD'S TRUCK - AFTERNOON

LEONARD is driving, LEFTY is looking out the window at the countryside. The sky is overcast. He has his boots up on the dash.

LEONARD

It's my fault the tent burnt down. If I hadn't gotten myself thrown into the calaboose - Billy would've been at the show and stopped it from happening.

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

LEFTY

Kid, are you blind ? Ever since she's been with us our luck has gone rotten.

LEONARD

Naw! Your just an ornery ol' cuss who don't like nobody.

A loud explosion is heard and LEONARD has difficulty steering the truck. A flat front tire. LEFTY & LEONARD look at each other.

CUT TO:

79. EXT. HILLSIDE-DAY

BILLY is seen ontop of a small hill grazing BUSTER. DOC LYNCH is walking up the hill toward him. Below, on the side of the road is LEONARD & LEFTY fixing the flat tire. BIG EAGLE & RUNNING WATER are sitting on the hood of their truck. ANTOINETTE is leaning against BILLY'S pick-up.

BILLY

Don't ya just love these wide open spaces where the deer and the antelope roam.

DOC is out of breath from walking up the hill. He takes out a bottle of snake bite and gulps a big swig, he hands the bottle to BILLY, who downs a gulp.

DOC

Boss, the boys wanted me to talk to ya.

BILLY

Doc, you can tell 'em from me that nobodys gonna get laid off. We'll pull in our belts and lift up our boots but we're gonna see this through together. We've had worse times.

DOC

I'm sure they'll be glad to hear that. I know I am. But, well, ah...

BILLY

Got a chicken bone caught in your throat ?

(CONTINUED)

DOC

Its the boys! They want you  
to get rid of Miss Lily. They  
think she's bad luck.

BILLY

(angered)

Who the hell do they think they  
are...Tellin me what to do? It's  
my show. I hire and fire when I  
please and anybody who don't like  
it can pick up their pay and get out.

DOC

Things ain't gone good since  
she joined up.

BILLY

Why, that poor little gal has been  
through hell. Now, I didn't take much  
likin to her in the beginnin, but she's  
startin to come around to my way of  
thinkin.

DOC

What are we gonna do? Without a  
big tent we can't put on a show.

BILLY is looking off into the distance. A train is heard tooting  
far away.

BILLY

I know that!

DOC

What should I tell the boys?

BILLY

Tell 'em...we're gonna rob  
a train.

DOC

Okay Billy!

DOC takes a couple of steps and turns around in disbelief.

Rob a train!!!

CUT TO:

80 EXT. RAILROAD TRACKS - DAY

We are CLOSE UP on BRONCO BILLY in full show wardrobe seated on BUSTER in the center of the tracks looking off for the expected train. About him are DOC, in his ringmaster's outfit, LEONARD in costume and warming up his rope, LEFTY, the Chief in loincloth and full war paint holding his bow and arrows, RUNNING WATER in her squaw dress and ANTOINETTE, the only one in street clothes. They are all about BILLY, slightly bewildered, all except ANTOINETTE who is incredulous.

BIG EAGLE

But how we gonna stop a train?

BILLY

Big Eagle! Stoppin the train is easy. Carrying all that money away is the hard part.

LEFTY

No outfit has tried robbing a train in nearly ninety years.

ANTOINETTE

They were smart. That's why! You are all crazy if you follow him! You could all go to jail for the rest of your lives for robbing a train.

BILLY

Miss Lily! I appreciate your concern and ya might be right about me bein crazy, but we're at the end of our rope.

ANTOINETTE

This isn't a game. People could get hurt.

LEFTY

We ain't plannin on gettin hurt!

ANTOINETTE

You don't even know if that's the right train.

BILLY

If you want out just say so.

ANTOINETTE

You know you're all going to get caught.

(CONTINUED)

LEFTY

I say Miss Lily's out!

ANTOINETTE

You're all living in a dream world. There are no more cowboys and Indians in America. That's in the past!

She looks at their faces. They just look at her without saying a word.

BILLY

Miss Lily, I grew up in a one room tenement in New Jersey. As a kid, I never saw a cowboy or the wide open spaces except when I was able to hustle a quarter and go to a picture show. I worked as a shoe salesman until I was thirty-one years old. But deep down in my heart I always wanted to be a cowboy. One day I put down my shoe horn and swore I'd never live in the city again. You only live once...I figure ya gotta give it your best shot.

ANTOINETTE

Don't do it Billy! I can give you the money.

BILLY

(smiles)

That would be a neat trick considerin I haven't paid ya since you started workin for me.

ANTOINETTE

I've got money. Lots of it!

BILLY

If ya say you do, I believe you. But I'm the head ramrod around here and I've already made my decision.

(CONTINUED)

BILLY looks about him as we hear the offstage locomotive horn and the sound of a train approaching.

BILLY

You all know what ya have to do. Get ready.

ANTOINETTE

Wait for me!

They all look at her. BILLY is glad she is joining in. LEFTY isn't

Sound of train getting nearer.

BILLY

The train is comin!

The gang begins to place themselves along both sides of the track.

Now don't forget! Nobody start until I give the signal.

CUT TO:

81 INT. ENGINEER COMPARTMENT OF TRAIN - DAY

The ENGINEER can be seen first noticing a man on a horse and several other people on the tracks. He has a quizzical look on his face.

CUT BACK TO:

82 EXT. TRACKS - DAY

BILLY is seen putting on his bandana mask and checking his revolvers. BIG EAGLE is kneeling and has an arrow placed in his bow. EVERYBODY has a mask on except him.

The train is going so fast that it is upon them almost before they are ready. BILLY reins BUSTER forward and rides up alongside the train firing his gun skyward in a futile attempt to stop it. The rest of the Outfit can be seen firing their guns. BIG EAGLE shoots an arrow at a car. BILLY is a short ways down the track watching the train disappear over the horizon. All stand dejected. We slowly pull back from this forlorn group on the lonely tracks.

CUT TO:

83 OMIT

84 OMIT

(CONTINUED)

## 5. INT. BILLY'S TRUCK - DAY

BILLY is driving with ANTOINETTE and DOC sitting beside him.

BILLY  
I've got an idea to  
get us back in business.

Through the windshield can be seen the buildup of an institution  
nearing our caravan.

ANTOINETTE  
What is this place?

BILLY  
A home for the criminally  
insane.

ANTOINETTE  
They oughta love your act..

On BILLY'S disgusted reaction.

CUT TO:

## 36 EXT. MINERAL WELLS SANATORIUM - DAY

The caravan is seen pulling into the circular compound of the Sanatorium. It is a bleak, dismal looking place with gray buildings and a large barbed wire cyclone fence surrounding the grounds. Men and women can be seen seated on benches, walking around or doing odd jobs. They all turn and watch the trucks roll up to the Administration building. JOHN ARLINGTON, ANTOINETTE'S husband, is seen with his hands up on the barbed wire fence observing the Wild West Show caravan. He is dressed up in the same drab green pajamas as all the inmates. A GUARD walks up behind him and jabs his ribs with a stick.

GUARD  
Get back to work you nut!

JOHN ARLINGTON looks half crazed out of his mind. His once slicked down hair is standing on end.

JOHN  
I'm not nuts. I want to see  
the director.

GUARD  
How would you like to take a  
trip to the yellow room?

JOHN ARLINGTON becomes frightened and picks up his paint bucket and brush and starts painting the fence. The GUARD walks away. JOHN ARLINGTON looks through the fence at the Wild West Show and can see BILLY and the rest of the Outfit getting out of the trucks. He notices ANTOINETTE. He rubs his eyes in disbelief. She turns and looks in his direction, but doesn't notice him.

87 EXT. ADMINISTRATION BUILDING - DAY

Dr. Canterbury, head of the institution, exits to our group.

DR. CANTERBURY  
Bronco Billy ! What a pleasant  
surprise.

The two men shake hands.

BILLY  
Doctor Canterbury you're lookin  
sprite.

BILLY turns to his gang.

BILLY  
Everybody wait outside  
for me.

BILLY turns back to DR. CANTERBURY.

BILLY  
If I could have a word with  
you alone. I need a favor.

DR. CANTERBURY takes BILLY by the arm and they enter the  
Administration building.

CUT TO:

88 INT. HALL OF ADMINISTRATION BUILDING - DAY

DR. CANTERBURY and BILLY are walking along the corridor.

DR. CANTERBURY  
Billy, I can see you have the worst ailment  
known to man. No money. How can I help?  
How can my staff help your people? How  
can my patients best serve you?

BILLY  
Don't your patients sew American flags  
for the Marine Corp?

DR. CANTERBURY  
If its a flag you want, by all means  
you can have one.

BILLY  
No, I don't need a flag, Doc, I need  
a tent. Without it, it's the end  
of the Bronco Billy Wild West Show.



DR. CANTERBURY

Billy, you and your friends have always come here, year in and year out. All those free shows. I don't know why, but you come. After all you've done for us it will be a pleasure to be able to do this for you. But I have a price!

BILLY

Name your price!

DR. CANTERBURY

That you teach me how to twirl a six shooter.

BILLY

(smiles)

You got it ol' Pard!

DR. CANTERBURY

You and your gang can hole up in the guest house and eat your meals with the staff or the patients. Whichever you feel more comfortable with.

BILLY can't stop shaking DR. CANTERBURY'S hand he's so happy.

CUT TO:

89 EXT. FRONT OF ADMINISTRATION BUILDING - DAY

The entire outfit are seated on the steps of the Administration Building waiting for BILLY. ANTOINETTE is seated away from the group.

LEONARD

This place gives me the creepers everytime we come here.

DOC

Many of these people are as sane as you and I.

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

LEFTY

Thats not sayin much!

DOC

They've just had a bad break.

LEFTY

Yeah! They were born sane in a crazy world.

BILLY comes out of the front door of the Administration Bldg. He is happy.

BILLY

We're back in business buckeroos.

The group starts to hoot and holler. Even ANTOINETTE smiles.

CUT TO:

90. EXT. GUEST HOUSE-LATE AFTERNOON

The INMATES are walking single file to the Sanatorium dining room. JOHN ARLINGPON can be seen in the group. Parked alongside the guest house is the Wild West Show's Trucks. He is plotting on how to get out of the Sanatorium.

CUT TO:

91. INT. GUEST HOUSE-LATE AFTERNOON

BRONCO BILLY'S Outfit is being led down the clean hallway by one of the white smocked attendants. LEONARD is walking next to BILLY, followed by LEFTY & DOC, BIG EAGLE with RUNNING WATER. Trailing behind is ANTOINETTE. All are carrying old suitcases except ANTOINETTE.

LEONARD

Boss, how long we gotta stay in this nut house ?

BILLY

As long as it takes to make the big tent.

LEONARD

How long do you think that will be ?

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

BILLY

Leonard, if you got somethin  
better to do...Do it!

LEONARD

Just askin Boss, just askin.

The ATTENDANT is a middle-aged man with a stern appearance.

ATTENDANT

This is the Rose Room.

He opens the door to a room which is painted gray.

It has two single beds and  
a black & white T.V.

BILLY

Leonard, you and Lefty bunk  
here.

LEONARD

Why do they call it the Rose  
Room?

The ATTENDANT looks at LEONARD with a stern expression.

ATTENDANT

It has always been called  
the Rose Room!

NOBODY says anything. LEONARD & LEFTY enter the room. The  
rest of the Outfit moves on down the hallway. DOC speaks out  
to BILLY.

DOC

At least the rates are reasonable.

The ATTENDANT opens up a room door and all stop and peer inside.

ATTENDANT

The Carnation Room! Has a single  
bed with a radio.

DOC

I believe I've returned home.

DOC enters the gray painted room. The ATTENDANT leads the  
rest of the Outfit across the hall to another room. He opens  
the door.

ATTENDANT

This is one of our most  
requested rooms from guests who  
frequently come to Mineral Wells.

(Con't.)

BILLY  
Big Eagle, Running Water!

The ATTENDANT clears his throat.

ATTENDANT  
I might add that you will  
be the first Indians ever  
allowed to stay in the guest  
house.

BIG EAGLE becomes anger'd but does not voice his feelings.

RUNNING WATER  
What is the name of this  
room ?

ATTENDANT  
It doesn't have a name!

RUNNING WATER takes BIG EAGLE'S hand and they enter the room.  
The ATTENDANT leads the way to the end of the hall and the last  
room. BILLY & ANTOINETTE follow. The ATTENDANT stops and opens  
the door.

ATTENDANT  
And this is what we call our  
honeymoon room.

ANTOINETTE  
You've, got to be kidding!

The ATTENDANT stares at her and she realizes he is not kidding.

ATTENDANT  
Dr. Canterbury specifically  
ordered me to give you and your  
wife this room.

ANTOINETTE  
Wife!

BILLY  
Come my dear!

He pulls her into the room and closes the door leaving the  
ATTENDANT all alone in the hallway.

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

ATTENDANT  
( to himself )  
I forgot to tell them about  
the view.

CUT TO:

92. INT. HONEYMOON ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

BILLY & ANTOINETTE are SEEN inside the honeymoon room. He drops his rawhide suitcase and jumps onto the bed, letting out a giant holler. She stands quietly in front of the bed staring down at him.

BILLY  
Wahoooo! Everything is comin  
up roses. Step over here darlin  
and give Bronco Billy a big kiss.

ANTOINETTE  
Don't you find anything bizarre  
about your life ?

BILLY  
Yeah! I find it kinda strange  
that you and I haven't made love  
yet.

He leans forward and grabs ANTOINETTE'S wrist, pulling her onto the bed.

ANTOINETTE  
Let go of me !

BILLY  
I'm crazy about ya Miss Lily!  
Gimme a kiss.

She struggles to get away from him.

ANTOINETTE  
You're as batty as the fruitcakes  
in this place.

BILLY  
You love me, don't ya ?

ANTOINETTE  
Your timing is less than  
appropriate.

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

BILLY

You mean it's that time  
of the month for ya ?

ANTOINETTE

No, it is not that time of  
the month.

BILLY

Kiss me!

He holds her and tries to kiss her but she struggles away. She  
is angry.

ANTOINETTE

Damit! Leave me alone. That's  
all you ever think about.

She slaps him across the face and he lets her go. Both get up  
from the bed and stand on opposite sides.

You said I'd know the time.  
Well, I don't know it yet.

BILLY

I've known some thirteen year  
old girls who are more woman than  
you.

ANTOINETTE

Well, at least I'm not a phony  
cowboy from Brooklyn.

BILLY is hurt by her slur as she is by his. He gives a half  
hearted smile.

BILLY

What's it take to get through  
that heart of stone of yours ?

He picks up his suitcase and walks out of the room. ANTOINETTE  
walks over to the window and pulls up the venetian blinds. Outside  
is a stunning sunset. She knows she has hurt him with her remark  
about he being a phony cowboy. A knock is heard on the door. She  
turns and runs over to the door hoping it's BILLY. RUNNING WATER is  
seen standing in the doorway.

RUNNING WATER

I'd like to see the boss.

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

ANTOINETTE  
He's not here!

RUNNING WATER  
When you see him would ya  
tell him I'd like to talk  
to him .

RUNNING WATER starts to walk away and ANTOINETTE calls out to her.

ANTOINETTE  
Running Water! Do you have a  
minute ?

RUNNING WATER  
Sure..So, this is the honeymoon room!

Both Ladys enter the room. RUNNING WATER sits down on a chair  
and ANTOINETTE leans against the wall.

ANTOINETTE  
Not much of a honeymoon. I  
don't understand it-but that  
man makes me so angry every-  
time we're together.

RUNNING WATER  
The boss-he's a funny guy. Like  
all men he's just a big kid in  
a man's body.

ANTOINETTE  
But why do I hate him so much ?

RUNNING WATER  
The Apaches have a word for  
that...its called-love.

RUNNING WATER gives ANTOINETTE a gentle smile.

ANTOINETTE  
Thats what the Apaches call  
what I have ?

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

RUNNING WATER

When I first met Big Eagle I hated him. He was so dedicated to preserving the heritage of his ancestors that I felt rejected. You see at night-when everybody is asleep, he's up writing his book.

ANTOINETTE

Big Eagle is a writer ?

RUNNING WATER

He hasn't had anything published yet. But he's written three books.

ANTOINETTE

Big Eagle's a writer, Leonard's a Vietnam war deserter, Lefty a bank teller, Doc a Doc and Billy a shoemaker from Brooklyn.

RUNNING WATER

He told you that ?

ANTOINETTE

Yes!

RUNNING WATER

Your the first assistant he's ever told.

ANTOINETTE

But we're so different!

RUNNING WATER

Antoinette, I'm not an Indian by blood but I'm Big Eagle's squaw and that makes me an Indian at heart. Don't you understand what Bronco Billy and his Wild West Show is all about ? You can be anything you want-all you have to do is go out and become it.

ANTOINETTE is thinking about what RUNNING WATER has just said.

ANTOINETTE

I didn't mean to bring bad luck to the show.

(CONTINUED)



(Con't)

RUNNING WATER  
You didn't!

ANTOINETTE  
What should I do ?

RUNNING WATER  
I can't tell you that. But  
I do know you're running away  
from who you are and until you  
know who you want to be-you'll  
never get very far!

The CAMERA HOLDS on ANTOINETTE who is deep in thought.

CUT TO:

93. EXT. GUEST HOUSE-NIGHT

Billy is seated on the Guest House steps whittling a stick with his pocket knife. The INMAPES are being led back to their quarters in single file. There are only a few GUARDS walking alongside them. JOHN ARLINGTON is the last man in the procession. He walks past BILLY who looks up at him and smiles. When JOHN ARLINGTON reaches the side of the Guest House he can be seen jumping into the bushes and hiding. Nobody has noticed his action. BILLY stands up and puts his pocket knife back into his pants pocket. He looks back toward the Guest House door thinking about ANTOINETTE. He then walks away and heads toward the trailer.

CUT TO:

94. EXT. SIDE OF GUEST HOUSE-NIGHT

JOHN ARLINGTON is crawling behind the bushes that surround the Guest House. He reaches LEONARD & LEFTY'S room and peaks into the window. Both men are laying on their beds watching T.V. He crawls to the next window and peaks. DOC is sitting on his bed, listening to the radio and reading a medical book. JOHN ARLINGTON crawls quickly around to the rear of the Guest House. He reaches ANTOINETTE'S room and peaks in. The lights are out. He crawls over to BIG EAGLE and RUNNING WATER'S room. BIG EAGLE is seated at a small writing desk, handwriting his book on a long tablet of legal paper. RUNNING WATER is seated next to him. JOHN ARLINGTON crawls back to ANTOINETTE'S room and lifts up the window. He pulls himself up onto the ledge.

CUT TO:

## 5. INT. ANTOINETTE'S ROOM -NIGHT

JOHN ARLINGTON falls down onto the floor. He stands up and goes over to the bed. He turns on the lamp and notices the bed is empty. He quickly turns off the light. A light in the bathroom catches his attention and he walks over to the door. Standing for a moment in thought he swings the door open and rushes in only to confront an empty room. JOHN ARLINGTON stands facing himself in the mirror. Half crazed from his predicament.

CUT TO:

## 96. INT. BRONCO BILLY'S TRAILER-NIGHT

BILLY is laying on the bed in the small sleeping compartment. His shirt off, he is writing down some numbers on a small pad, occasionally moistening the tip of his pencil. ANTOINETTE appears in the doorway. She feels awkward.

ANTOINETTE

I want you to take me in  
your arms and make love to  
me.

BILLY

Miss Lily, I would. But  
unless you love me it won't  
be any good.

BILLY stands and faces her.

ANTOINETTE

I,.....I, Love you Bronco  
Billy.

BILLY takes ANTOINETTE into his arms and they kiss. She hugs him back. He reaches over and turns off the light. Their silhouettes form against the wall,.....he leads her over to the bed. They lay down and she starts kissing him all over his face.

BILLY

Slow down! We've got all  
night and the rest of our  
lives to enjoy each other.

BILLY gently kisses her. He takes off his cowboy hat and throws it on the floor.

CUT TO:

## 97 INT. SEAMSTRESS ROOM - MORNING

INMATES are seated behind long wooden benches sewing together large remnants of fabric. DR. CANTERBURY is walking with BILLY down the aisle. JOHN ARLINGTON is seated sewing between two women.

DR. CANTERBURY

In two days you shall have  
your big tent.

BILLY

Could I have a word with the  
patients?

DR. CANTERBURY

Why certainly!

BILLY stands up on a chair.

BILLY

Folks! I'd like to thank ya  
all from the bottom of my heart  
for the great work you're doin for  
me and my outfit.

JOHN ARLINGTON stares with wild eyes at BILLY.

DR. CANTERBURY

Three cheers for Bronco Billy!  
Hip, Hip Hooray! Hip, Hip Hooray!  
Hip, Hip Hooray!

The INMATES do not say anything. BILLY realizes the terrible plight these people are in and slowly steps down from the chair.

CUT TO:

## 98 INT. BRONCO BILLY'S TRAILER - MORNING

ANTOINETTE is seen lying in bed half asleep. Her clothes are strewn on the floor. She turns and hugs the pillow which she thinks is BILLY, only to wake up and realize it is a pillow. She is naked, her hair is full and her eyes happy from her new found love.

ANTOINETTE

(starts to sing)

I'm an ol' cowgirl from the Rio  
Grande...I'm an ol' cowgirl from  
the Rio Grande...

CUT TO:

## 99. EXT. BRONCO BILLY'S TRAILER-MORNING

TWO GUN LEFTY LeBOW is seen walking by the trailer just when ANTOINETTE opens the door and steps out into the morning air. She takes several deep breaths, really enjoying her inner feelings. She speaks out to LEFTY.

ANTOINETTE  
Good morning Lefty!

LEFTY  
What's so good about it ?

ANTOINETTE  
Smell that fresh morning air.  
Look at the blue sky above!

LEFTY looks at ANTOINETTE as if she's crazed out of her mind.

LEFTY  
You been smokin some of that  
loco weed ?

ANTOINETTE walks over to LEFTY and puts her arm through his.

ANTOINETTE  
Lefty, I know you think I've  
brought bad luck to the show.

LEFTY  
I'll shoot straight with Ya Miss  
Lily....You have!

ANTOINETTE  
Maybe I did bring bad luck and  
I know I've been hard to get along  
with, but I want to change. I want  
to be part of the Outfit. Won't you  
give me a second chance ? Please!

LEFTY is not sure what to make of ANTOINETTE'S statement.

LEFTY  
One bad apple can spoil the  
whole barrel.

ANTOINETTE  
I know, but you see I've been  
a scared little calf in the herd.

(CONTINUED)

LEFTY

A man's gotta prove himself  
when he's out on the range and  
that holds to a woman!

ANTOINETTE

Could I buy you a cup of coffee  
Mr. LeBow?

LEFTY

If ya got a callin for it.

ANTOINETTE & LEFTY have walked up to the front of the Sanatorium  
dining hall.

CUT TO:

100 INT. DR. CANTERBURY'S RECEPTION ROOM - DAY

DR. CANTERBURY and BILLY are exiting his inner office. Dr. Canterbury  
is unstrapping the two gun holsters and hands them back to BILLY  
who slings them over his shoulder.

BILLY

Practice one hour in the mornin  
and one hour before you go to  
bed and you can grow up to be like  
Bronco Billy.

DR. CANTERBURY

I will!

BILLY passes JOHN ARLINGTON seated in a chair. Their eyes meet.  
BILLY tips his hat.

BILLY

Howdy ol' Pard!

JOHN ARLINGTON just stares at BILLY.

DR. CANTERBURY

Please come in Mr. Arlington!

BILLY walks out of the reception room and JOHN ARLINGTON enters the  
doctors office.

CUT TO:

101 OMIT

102 INT. DR. CANTERBURY'S OFFICE - DAY

DR. CANTERBURY walks around his desk and puts on his suitcoat and takes his chair. JOHN ARLINGTON sits down on the chair next to his desk.

DR. CANTERBURY

I like to hold these informal sessions with all the new patients so I can get to know their problems.

JOHN

Doctor! As you know, I've been sent here for life because I murdered my wife. But I've been framed. My wife is the woman with Bronco Billy's show. I know, I've seen her. You must believe me!

DR. CANTERBURY gives a consoling smile.

DR. CANTERBURY

Why don't you start from the beginning and tell me all about it...

JOHN

Her mother's attorney promised to pay me \$500,000 if I confessed to her murder...

CUT TO:

(CONTINUED)

## 103. EXT. SANATORIUM GROUNDS-DAY

BILLY & ANTOINETTE are seen walking BUSTER around the grounds. They are both very happy.

ANTOINETTE

Billy!

(She feels awkward)

Was, I alright....last night ?

BILLY grins.

BILLY

Miss Lily! We weren't performing.

ANTOINETTE

(Anger'd)

That is not what I meant.

BILLY

You did just fine.

ANTOINETTE

I did ?

BILLY

You know why ?

ANTOINETTE

Because you're a cowboy ?

BILLY

Naw, I coulda been a sailor, lumberjack or President of the United States. Ya felt good cause we love and trust each other.

ANTOINETTE

The Apaches have a word for it.

BILLY

They do ?

ANTOINETTE

Yup! I'm even starting to talk like you.

BILLY

Thats because you're a cowgirl.

ANTOINETTE

(Laughs)

I'm aootin, tootin cowgirl from the Rio Grande .

(Con't.)

BILLY

I've been thinkin about  
changin the act. I figure  
I should be able to teach  
ya how to twirl and shoot  
a gun in no time.

ANTOINETTE

No problem, Bronco Billy!

BILLY

( serious )

It takes lots of practice.

ANTOINETTE

Whatever you say.

They embrace and kiss. DR. CANTERBURY is first HEARD  
before he is SEEN. He clears his throat.

DR. CANTERBURY

Billy, could I have a moment  
of your time...and also the  
young lady's.

BILLY & ANTOINETTE pull apart and face the Doctor.

BILLY

Shoot!

JOHN ARLINGTON grabs ANTOINETTE by her shoulders and  
begins to shake her.

JOHN

( desperate )

Antoinette! It's me John Arlington,  
tell them you're alive, tell them  
you're alive !!!

ANTOINETTE freezes in his clutches . BILLY pulls JOHN  
ARLINGTON away and knocks him to the ground.

BILLY

Back off stranger!

(CONTINUED)



(Con't.)

DR. CANTERBURY  
Mr. Arlington, control yourself,  
I'm sorry ma'am, but, Mr. Arlington  
believes you to be his wife.....  
And whenever one of my patients has  
an hallucination I try to confront  
them with the facts of life.

ANTOINETTE leans over and helps JOHN ARLINGTON up to his feet.

ANTOINETTE  
What on earth are you doing here,  
John?

He gets to his feet.

JOHN  
I was framed!

DR. CANTERBURY  
You mean he really is your  
husband?

BILLY looks to ANTOINETTE and then to JOHN ARLINGTON.

BILLY  
Why did you run off and leave  
her?

JOHN  
If you knew what she was like...  
You'd run away to.

DR. CANTERBURY  
You mean you really are  
Antoinette Lily.

BILLY  
Who else would she be!!!  
Say, whats this all about?

DR. CANTERBURY  
I'm afraid I'm going to have  
to call the authorities.

DR. CANTERBURY hurrys away.

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

JOHN

Thank God your alive!  
I am going to sue you and  
your mother and that crooked  
lawyer for every cent you have.

ANTOINETTE runs away from BILLY & JOHN ARLINGTON.

BILLY

What the hell is going on  
here?

HE grabs JOHN ARLINGTON'S shirt.

JOHN

My wife is alive!!!

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT OF ADMINISTRATION BLDG. - DAY

A caravan of cars can be seen speeding up to the front of  
the Administration Bldg. Parked out front are several police  
cars. Newspaper reporters and cameramen are seen hurrying out  
of their cars and running up the steps to the front door.

CUT TO:

105. INT. HALLWAY - DAY

DOC LYNCH, LEFTY, LEONARD, BIG EAGLE & RUNNING WATER are  
seated on a bench outside DR. CANTERBURY'S office.

LEFTY

And I was just beginnin to  
like her.

The reporters are seen rushing down the hall toward them.

BIG EAGLE

They look like a herd  
of buffalo!

The reporters stand in front of the Doctor's office. One  
Reporter speaks out to the Outfit.

REPORTER

Are you people patients  
here at Mineral Wells?

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

2nd REPORTER  
Have the doctors treated  
you well ?

The Outfit sits in disbelief at the Reporters questions.

CUT TO:

106. INT. DR. CANTERBURY'S OFFICE-DAY

ANTOINETTE is being interrogated by LT. AL WIECKER. The room is full of policemen. JOHN ARLINGTON is seated opposite from DR. CANTERBURY. BILLY can be seen leaning against the wall.

LT. WIECKER  
Didn't you know the entire  
country thought you had been  
murdered ?

ANTOINETTE  
I do not read newspapers!

She has assumed her previously cold personality.

LT. WIECKER  
This man..Your husband..Has  
been convicted of murdering  
you and now you show up alive.  
(Slaps his hands)  
I just don't know what to make  
of it.

ANTOINETTE  
I find it a small misunderstanding,  
Lt.

LT. WIECKER  
Maybe the FBI will, but I sure  
don't.

JOHN ARLINGTON is smiling.

ANTOINETTE  
The FBI !

LT. WIECKER  
They'll be here tonight to  
transport you and Mr. McCoy  
and his people back to New York  
City for an inquiry.

(Con't.)

BILLY takes several steps forward. ANTOINETTE avoids his eyes.

BILLY

Why do I have to go to  
New York City ?

LT. WIECKER

Harboring a fugitive.

ANTOINETTE

How could I be a fugitive  
if I were dead ?

LT. WIECKER

I don't know what you are!  
But, the FBI will know.

JOHN

I hope they throw the book  
at you.

ANTOINETTE

Shut up! You little termite.

JOHN ARLINGTON loses his smile. A POLICEMAN enters the office and walks over to LT. WIECKER.

POLICEMAN

Newspaper Reporters are crawling  
all over the place.

LT. WIECKER

Tell them an official statement  
will be forth coming.

ANTOINETTE

I have nothing more to say!

CUT TO:

107. EXT. HALLWAY - DAY

BILLY is SEEN leaving the Doctor's office. He walks over to the Outfit, they all stand and follow him down the hall away from the reporters.

BILLY

Get everything ready. We're  
pullin out tonight !

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

LEFTY  
That suits me fine!

DOC  
What did they ask ya?

BILLY  
I ain't goin back to the  
city!

RUNNING WATER  
What about Miss Lily?

BILLY  
She's bad luck!

NOBODY says anything. They keep on walking.

CUT TO:

108. OMIT

109. EXT. NEW YORK CITY - DAY

A SHOT of the city and then a whirling newspaper SUPERIMPOSED  
over the shot with the headline. "MURDERED HEIRESS ALIVE".

CUT TO:

110. INT. MRS. IRENE LILY'S MANHATTAN APARTMENT - EARLY EVENING

IRENE LILY is seated in a stuffed chair in her living room.  
ANTOINETTE is standing next to the window looking out at the  
Hudson River.

IRENE  
What was I suppose to think?  
You missing..He was alive..I  
knew he was only after your  
money.

The doorbell rings and ELOISE EBBY the maid answers the door.  
EDGAR WHITE LIPTON the attorney appears. He enters the living  
room.

EDGAR  
Good evening ladies! I would  
like to report that everything  
has been taken care of. The  
District Attorney is an old  
friend of mine and he fully  
understands the misunderstanding.

(Con't.)

IRENE  
Wonderful! Isn't that  
wonderful darling?

ANTOINETTE doesn't answer.

She hasn't spoken a word  
since her return.

EDGAR is standing next to IRENE.

EDGAR  
She's been through a terrible  
ordeal.

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

IRENE  
Yes, my poor little baby.

IRENE stands and cautiously walks over to ANTOINETTE.

EDGAR  
John Arlington has been compensated for his discomfort. Antoinette, I'm sure you would like the marriage to be annulled as quickly as possible. I will be more than happy to arrange it.

ANTOINETTE turns away from IRENE and walks out of the room to her bedroom. IRENE walks up to EDGAR.

IRENE  
What about the inheritance money?

EDGAR  
I'm afraid my dear, that you are at the mercy of your loving step-daughter.

CUT TO:

11. INT. ANTOINETTE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

ANTOINETTE is on her bed staring up at the ceiling. She is smoking a cigarette, blowing smoke rings. A small knock is HEARD at the door and IRENE nervously enters.

IRENE  
Antoinette, my poor, poor baby.

ANTOINETTE  
What do you want?

IRENE walks over and sits down on the bed.

IRENE  
Darling, now that you're home I want us so much to become friends.

ANTOINETTE  
We were never friends and we never will be. But don't worry. I won't put you out on the street where you belong.

(Con't.)

IRENE stands up and gives ANTOINETTE a hateful look. She walks out of the room in a huff. ANTOINETTE speaks out to herself.

ANTOINETTE  
So long, Bronco Billy!

ANTOINETTE leans over and picks up a small vile of sleeping tablets and holds them in her hand.

CUT TO:

112. INT. RAINBOW TAVERN - NIGHT

BRONCO BILLY and his Outfit, all except RUNNING WATER, are seated in a booth. BILLY is very drunk with the others close behind. The Rainbow Tavern is in Boise, Idaho. Country and Western music can be heard playing on the jukebox.

LEONARD  
Boss! How soon do you think  
we can show our faces?

BILLY  
Bartender! Another round of  
drinks.

DOC  
I would say this next round  
shall put us very close to the  
poor house.

LEFTY  
We show our faces and those  
Feds will be on us like flys.

RUNNING WATER walks over to the table and sits down next to BIG EAGLE. She is carrying a newspaper.

RUNNING WATER  
Nothin in the paper about us!

LEFTY  
That's an old FBI trick!  
They want us to believe the  
coast is clear.

BILLY  
Bronco Billy ain't afraid  
of no tin horn sheriff!

(CONTINUED)



(Con't.)

LEONARD  
You figurin on us shootin  
it out with the FBI?

The BARTENDER walks up to the table with a tray full of beers.  
He sets them down and BILLY struggles to pull out his money.

BILLY  
Keep the change ol' Pard!

The BARTENDER counts the money.

BARTENDER  
You owe me a dollar more,  
Pal!

BILLY searches his pockets and comes up with a wrinkled  
dollar bill. He hands it to the BARTENDER who walks away.

LEONARD  
Boss! What if we hide out  
in the mountains?

BILLY  
(To Leonard)  
Did you ever hide out in the  
mountains before?

LEONARD  
Nope!

BILLY  
It snows in the mountains. Ya  
got the picture?

LEONARD  
Yup!

DOC  
Maybe, we could live happily ever  
after in this bar.

BILLY  
That ain't funny, Doc!

NOBODY says anything. BILLY stands up and chugs down his beer  
and slams the empty beer bottle on the table.

Well, buckeroos! I say we show  
these Idaho folks a real Wild  
West Show tomorrow.

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

LEONARD  
(Shouts out)  
Bronco Billy ain't afraid  
of nothin.

LEONARD & LEFTY get up and follow BILLY out the bar. DOC  
looks over to BIG EAGLE & RUNNING WATER.

BIG EAGLE  
I ain't never seen the  
boss drink so much !

DOC  
He ain't never been in  
love with a woman like  
Miss Lily.

They all stand up to leave.

RUNNING WATER  
I'll be along in a minute.

CUT TO:

113. INT. HALLWAY OF RAINBOW TAVERN-NIGHT

RUNNING WATER is seen dialing the telephone. A Cowboy staggers  
out of the washroom and walks by.

RUNNING WATER  
Operator! I'd like to call  
information New York City and  
get the number of.....

CUT TO:

114. INT. ANTOINETTE'S BATHROOM-NIGHT

ANTOINETTE has a glass of water and a handful of sleeping  
tablets in her hands. She puts the tablets in her mouth and  
is about to drink the water when the telephone rings. She  
pauses for a moment, trying to decide whether to answer it or  
not. She lifts up the white telephone next to the bathroom sink.  
Her voice is garbled from the mouthful of tablets.

ANTOINETTE  
Hel'l'o!

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

V.O. OPERATOR

OPERATOR

I have a collect call for  
a Miss Antoinette Lily from  
Running Water. Will you accept?

ANTOINETTE

Ye's!

ANTOINETTE spits out the tablets.

V.O. RUNNING WATER

RUNNING WATER

Miss Lily?

ANTOINETTE

Running Water! Where are you?

RUNNING WATER

We're in Boise, Idaho.

ANTOINETTE

How's Bronco Billy?

RUNNING WATER

He needs ya badly!

CUT TO:

115. INT. BRONCO BILLY'S TRAILER - DAY

BILLY is putting on his costume. He has a bottle of Doc Lynch's  
snake bite on his dressing table. LEFTY is seated on the couch.

BILLY

We'll cut out the Wheel  
of Fortune. You'll be my  
assistant today.

LEFTY

It's a shame Miss Lily's not  
here.

BILLY

Miss Lily.....

BILLY looks at himself in the mirror. He remembers her well.

I thought you didn't like her?

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

LEFTY  
I never said I didn't like  
her. I just said she brought  
us bad luck.

BILLY  
Well, she did!

LEFTY  
Naw,...She was the best assistant  
we ever had. Why she could throw  
a plate in the air and....

BILLY  
Don't you got somethin better  
to do then sit around here and  
howl like a coyote?

LEFTY  
Yeah, sure boss!

LEFTY walks out of the trailer. BILLY stands silent in front  
of the mirror as he straps on his six-shooters and tilts his  
hat.

CUT TO:

116. EXT. BRONCO BILLY'S WILD WEST SHOW TENT - DAY

The show is set up in a park with the capitol dome in the  
background. People are seen buying tickets at the booth from  
RUNNING WATER. The new big tent is hundreds of American flags  
sewn together.

CUT TO:

117. INT. BRONCO BILLY'S WILD WEST SHOW TENT - DAY

LEONARD JAMES is just finishing up his act. DOC LYNCH starts  
to run to the center of the arena.

DOC  
Lets have a big hand for  
Lasso Leonard James. The  
greatest rope artist in  
the west.

LEONARD takes off his big cowboy hat and does a dramatic bow  
to the audience. He lets out a big yell and runs out of the  
arena towards the PERFORMERS ENTRANCE-EXIT.

(CONTINUED)

(Con't.)

DOC

...and now folks it is my privilege to introduce to you the greatest trick shooter, the fastest draw, the toughest hombre who ever rode the range. The one and only Bronco Billy McCoy and his horse Buster....

BRONCO BILLY comes riding out on BUSTER. As soon as he reaches the center of the arena he reins BUSTER back and has him rear up. BILLY takes off his stetson with a swooping motion and waves it over his head. He starts to ride around the arena doing his different stunts; Pony express stunt, back flip off Buster and jumping back up by pulling the horse's tail, twice around the arena and then BILLY jumps off BUSTER and makes the horse kneel. The audience applauds as loud as forty people can applaud.

BILLY

Thank ya ladies and gents and especially my little pardnors out in the audience. Its always good to see friendly folks. At this time I'd like to introduce to you...

HE looks over at the PERFORMERS ENTRANCE-EXIT and sees ANTOINETTE LILY dressed in her little cowgirl outfit. She is smiling.

my, my, ah, My Assistant Miss Antoinette Lily. So lets give her a big hand.

The audience applauds. She runs over to BILLY and puts her arm around his waist. He whisper's to her.

A little late ain't ya ?

ANTOINETTE

I was waitin for ya to come and get me!

BILLY

Well, I got ya! And I ain't never lettin ya go.

CUT TO:

## 118. MONTAGE

SHOTS of BILLY & ANTOINETTE working together. She throwing plates in the air and he shooting them. The Wheel of Fortune. He lifting her up onto the back of BUSTER.

CUT TO:

## 119. INT. CENTER ARENA - DAY

A spotlight is around the entire gang with BRONCO BILLY facing directly at the CAMERA. ANTOINETTE is a step to his side. BUSTER is next to BILLY.

BILLY

...and so we come to the end of the show. We want to thank all you good people for bein so nice to us. Now, I wanta say somethin especially to all the little Pardos out there. Don't forget to eat your oatmeal for breakfast, listen to what your Ma and Pa tell ya to do...cause they know best... don't ever tell a lie and don't forget to say your prayers before you go to bed...And as our friends say, South of the Border. Adios Amigos!

The entire OUTFIT starts to wave. BILLY pulls ANTOINETTE into his arms and kisses her just when the spotlight closes up.

## 120. EXT. FLAG TENT - DAY

We begin a long pull back from the tent as the march theme "Stars and Stripes Forever" swells up over the closing credits.

THE END